



Lifestyle

Amherst offers literary-themed walking tour A3



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Scout Sunday Mass at St. Thomas of Villanova

St Thomas of Villanova Church recently hosted their annual Scout Sunday Mass. This annual Mass is to celebrate the birthday of both the Boy and Girl Scout programs. After Mass, Cub Scout Pack and Troop 136 hosted a "birthday" party for all scouts and parishioners. Pictured are: (front row l-r) Joey Malho, MJ Dorothy, Molly Brooks, John Bergeron (from Pack 361), Frank West, Robin Theodos, John Wallace, Karen West, Frank West Jr, Michelle Rowe (all from Pack 136). If anyone has questions about Scouts or being involved in next year's Scout Sunday Mass, please call Frank West @ 978-658-1754 or email Troop136Wilm@aol.com.

At the Wilmington line

Woburn mayor keen to reexamine New Boston Street redevelopment opportunities

By PATRICK BLAIS

WOBURN — Though unlikely to reject the free funding, the City Council recently indicated it wants some extra time to review the conditions attached to the acceptance of a \$115,000 grant that Mayor Michael Concannon will use for a New Boston Street rede-

velopment study. During a meeting in City Hall, the elected officials referred a proposed agreement between the city and MassDevelopment to its Infrastructure and Public Lands Committee for additional review. According to Concannon, the newly awarded grant money would be utilized to

hire technical consulting firm RKG Associates to prepare an economic growth plan for the Wilmington area industrial park, which is expected to become ripe with redevelopment potential once the \$23.5 million New Boston Street bridge project is

GRANT | PAGE A7W

School Committee updated on middle school, MSBA

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The School Committee received updates from middle school students, policy, the superintendent, and various subcommittees on Feb. 26. Wilmington Middle School students Eliana Goldstein and Nyla Chimwanda shared what students at the school have been up to. Eighth grade

students played pickleball, soccer and basketball at after school sports. She also shared that the Robotics Club Artemis Team made it to playoffs where they won a motivation award. The 8th grade chorus sang at a game of the Providence Bruins. Best Buddies looked forward to their Special Olympics on May 2 by creating posters, and World Culture Club looked forward

to learning about Carnival. She described No Place for Hate, the school-wide program designed to improve inclusion and allyship by addressing bias and bullying. Some of the ways that the students planned to improve inclusion were through a social media account and a penny war event. Students created a Black

SCHOOL | PAGE A7W

School Committee narrows down school year calendar

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — On Wednesday, Feb. 26, Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand presented the School Committee with several more options for the 2025-2026 school year calendar. Brand explained that he had now shared a total of four calendar versions with various possibilities for half days and holidays. He also mentioned that they received the results

of the survey sent out to staff asking their preference for a few holidays, with over 300 responses. Regarding the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, he recalled that the district made an exception over the past few years. 65 percent of staff answered in the survey that they preferred an early dismissal

CALENDAR | PAGE A8W

School Com. chooses NESDEC for interim supt. search

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — After voting at their Feb. 12 meeting to move forward with the job posting while researching potential search consulting firms, the School Committee discussed their options for the interim superintendent search at their Feb. 26 meeting.

Dr. Jenn Bryson provided that they had worked with Human Resources Director Andrea Stern-Armstrong and Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand to post the job. She also mentioned that she had reached back out to the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) for more information, while Chair Jesse Fennelly had reached out to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

Fennelly shared that MASC charges a one-time blanket fee, which costs the same whether it's an interim or permanent superintendent search and no matter what services are chosen. He did say that they offer some complementary services free of charge such as direct mail outreach.

He suggested that this may not be in the School Committee's best interest. The cost to use the MASC would be \$11,500.

Bryson went on to describe that NESDEC would charge \$4,500 to post the interim superintendent position, collect and organize applica-

tions, and send the applications to the committee. However, she said that this work was already being started by Stern-Armstrong. NESDEC also offered to build a proposal for consulting services where they would work with a liaison, support the development of the screening committee, assist in the interview scheduling, reach out to applicants, and develop interview questions.

She provided a cost range by them of \$4,500-\$5,500. She said that this cost felt more appropriate for an interim solution for just some consulting services. She also suggested that this may streamline the process if they want to continue with NESDEC for the permanent superintendent search.

Fennelly pointed out that the cost for the MASC was twice that of NESDEC.

Jay Samaha asked where this money would be found in the school department budget. Assistant Superintendent of Administration and Finance Paul Ruggiero suggested that they would have to find the money from an existing budget item.

Stephen Turner asked whether NESDEC could keep them on their proposed timeline with applications due March 21 and interviews in April. Bryson answered they said they had availability to meet the timeline, but she would have to confirm with them.

Turner also pointed out

that bringing on an interim superintendent as early as June would pose a new budget problem where they would have the superintendent and interim paid at the same time.

Nicholas Golden asked if they would want to continue with NESDEC for the permanent superintendent search. Bryson suggested that they would get to know NESDEC and stay with them if they felt that it was a good match. She added that it would save time.

Bryson also mentioned that she would want someone from the School Committee to serve as the co-chair on the search committee so that the community would know that the School Committee is devoted to the superintendent search. She said she would be happy to sit in that role if the rest of the committee agreed.

Fennelly recalled that NESDEC conducted the search that found Brand. He commented that the continuity aspect to use NESDEC now and in the fall for the permanent search was appealing.

David Ragsdale agreed with the suggestion of a School Committee member co-chairing the search committee.

"Hiring the superintendent is one of the core roles of the School Committee," he said.

He said that he wouldn't want to see the committee spend as much as \$11,500 with MASC when they didn't have time to

SEARCH | PAGE A7W

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Wilmington Library News:

Minute Madness is back at Wilmington Memorial Library

Adult Programs

Drop-in Tech Help

Tuesday, March 11, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, March 12, 2 p.m.
Thursday, March 13, 2 p.m.
Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m.
Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

Streaming Services and Other Alternatives to Cable

Monday, March 10, 6:30 p.m.
Come join Technology Librarian Brad as he presents alternatives to cable, such as Netflix and the library. While not all free, the alternatives will save you quite a bit of money every month.

Cookin' the Books

Tuesday, March 11, 12 p.m.
If you love to cook and enjoy talking about food and sharing recipes, then this group is for you! Grab a copy of the cookbook, register on the library's event calendar, and record your recipe. Bring your dish to the meeting and enjoy sampling everyone's dishes! Featured Cookbook: Dinner Tonight by Alex Snodgrass.

Craft & Chat

Wednesday, March 12, 6 p.m.
Enjoy making a craft while socializing with others! This craft group is held by longtime crafter Rachelle Toth. All craft supplies will be provided.

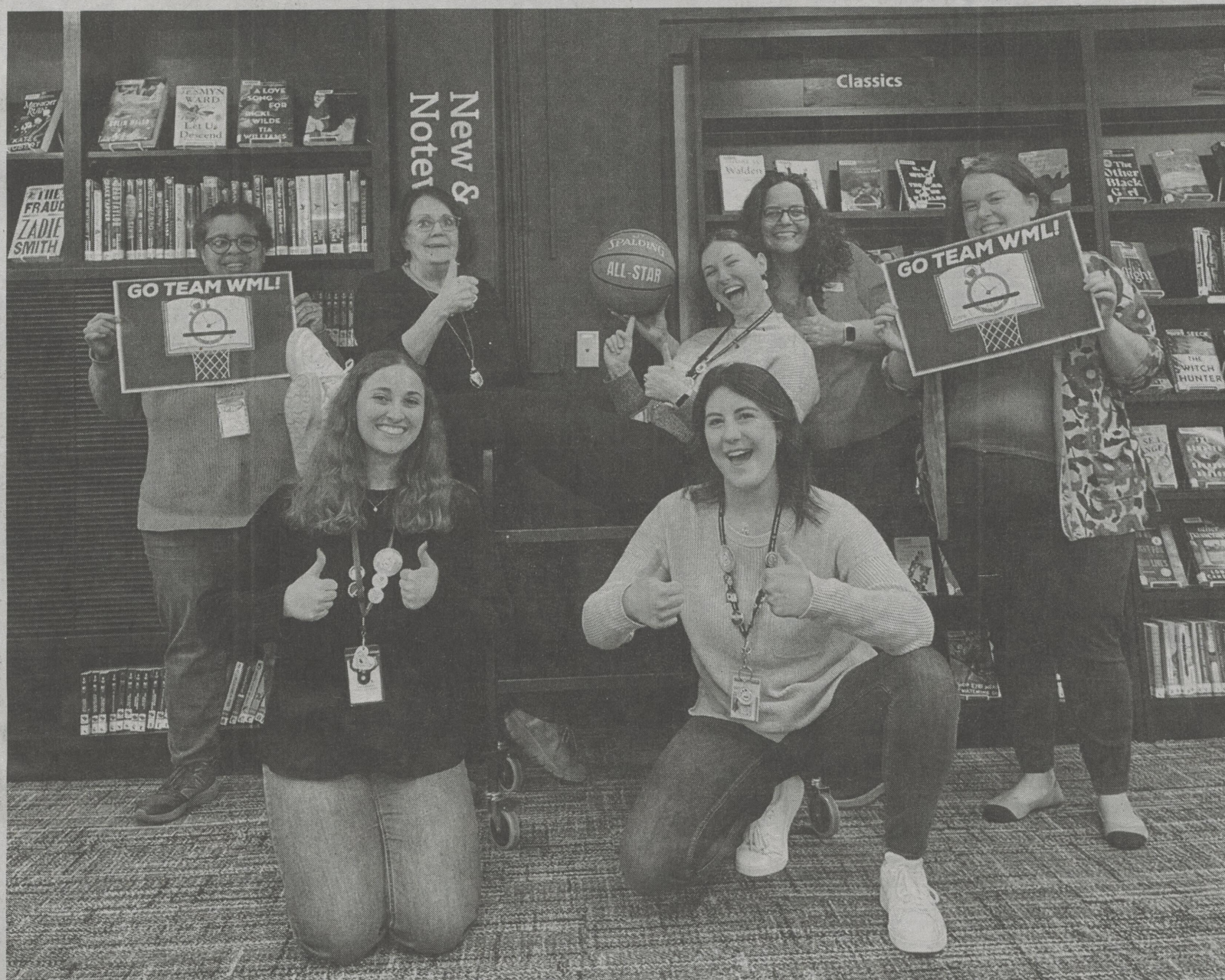
Fun & Function of iPhone

Thursday, March 13, 2:30 p.m.
Whether you're new to the iPhone or looking to unlock its hidden potential, this session will cover essential tips, tricks, and features to make your device both practical and enjoyable.

Menopause 101

Thursday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.
Are my period changes normal? What are the symptoms? What are my options? Join us for an evening of learning with Laura Brown, Women's Health NP, Menopause Specialist and Coach, and founder of Sapphire Women's Healthcare, PLLC.

Poetry Circle



▲ Minute Madness is back until April 4! Can you help Team WML out-read other Massachusetts libraries? Log your reading as we fight for a spot in the Minute Madness Championship. Last year we brought home the win—can we do it again? Register on Beanstack or grab a paper log at the library! (Courtesy photo)

(VIRTUAL)

Saturday, March 15, 9:15 a.m.
Do you enjoy writing poetry? Want input on your work? If so, this group is for you! Led by local writing enthusiast, Barbara Alebras.

Youth Programs

STEAM Team

Monday, March 10, 6 p.m.
Learn and have fun at the same time in this engaging STEAM program! Grades K-5.

Preschool Storytime

Tuesday, March 11, 10 a.m.
Join us at our Preschool Storytime! This program includes books, rhymes, music and movement. Ages 3-6

Teen Leadership Council

Tuesday, March 11, 6 p.m.

Are you interested in advocating for what you want at WML? Have you volunteered before, but want to commit to more? Join our Teen Leadership Council! Grades 7-12

Time for Twos

Wednesday, March 12, 10 a.m.
Time for Twos includes books, rhymes, music and movement for children aged 2! Age 2

Playful Pathways: Parent Book Club (VIRTUAL)

Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
This monthly book club will cover the seven essential life skills featured in Ellen Galinsky's book, *The Mind in the Making*. Because this event will be held via Zoom, children

are welcome to be in attendance. Recommended for parents and caregivers of children ages 0-5

Baby Time

Thursday, March 13, 10 a.m.
Join us at our Baby Time! This program includes books, rhymes, music and movement. Ages 0-23 months

Crafternoon

Thursday, March 13, 3:45 p.m.
Make a fun craft with us during Crafternoon! This month we'll be making Perler bead frames for instant photos (provided!). Grades 4-8

Music with Dara

Friday, March 14, 10 a.m.
With keyboard, felt board, and finger puppets, Dara

weaves songs (old and new favorites) and creative movement for a fun-filled musical program! Ages 2-5, siblings welcome

Stranger Safety with Academy of Traditional Karate

Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m.
This interactive class will feature a mix of fitness, Karate, and stranger safety lessons. Participants will learn about awareness, using their voice, and some physical self-defense moves. Ages 4-12

Teen DnD

Saturday, March 15, 2 p.m.
Looking for a group to play with? Join us for in-person Dungeons and Dragons at the library. You may also participate on

Discord, a private server. Grades 6-12

Additional Information

The Boston Bruins Pajama Drive is Back at WML!

From now until March 15th, we'll be collecting new youth pajamas for Cradles to Crayons during the Annual Bruins Pajama Drive. These pajamas must be appropriate for all seasons and can be any youth size through an adult medium. The donations support local kids and teens and can be dropped off in the donation bin on the first and second floors of the library. For more information on the Cradles to Crayons Pajama Drive, visit cradlestocrayons.org/boston/bruins-pj-drive.

Save the Date:

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.

(The Fez Room at the Shriner's Auditorium)
Wilmington Memorial Library is hosting best-selling novelist Chris Bohjalian whose newest book *The Jackal's Mistress* comes out in March! This first event in our new off-site author series will feature a presentation by Mr. Bohjalian, book sales/signing, a cash bar, and light refreshments. Registration begins in late March.

Laminate and Shred Your Documents at the Library!

We now have a laminator, and a paper shredder set up in our front foyer. These items are free to use, and the library even provides laminating sheets too!

Book Store Next Door

Regular hours are back at The Book Store Next Door! The bookstore is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Museum Passes

The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list by visiting wilmingtonlibrary.org/services/mp.

WML In-Person & Virtual Programming

Registration is required for most in-person programs and is required for all virtual programs, as you will need to register in order to receive the Zoom link. You can register on our website at www.wilmingtonlibrary.org or by calling (978) 658-2967.

Advertisement
It's Your Money

by Todd Brisbois

Draining 401(k) accounts when changing jobs: the hidden time bomb undermining retirement savings: PART II



As to why this is happening, the authors of a study said that both psychology and administrative factors are at play.

Employers have not seen cashing out as a pressing issue say the researchers. Presumably, firms that offer more generous matches care about the well-being of their employees in retirement and after they are no longer with the firm. But most firms have a blind spot about what happens at job termination and offer no financial advice to departing employees. Instead, firms delegate all communication to partner financial services firms that administer their plans. Unfortunately, these plans simply send dry letters to employees telling them their options. That's when the account composition ironically partially undermines the benefits a more generous employer match offers."

The way the plans are administered makes taking a check the path of least resistance for many employees. There is more bureaucratic paperwork to roll savings over into an independent retirement savings account or their next employer's retirement savings program. If departing employees now think of that check as a windfall rather than hard-earned retirement security when the employer contributed more, [they] are less likely to endure the hassle to dutifully roll those moneys over.

If firms could deter departing employees from suddenly eyeing their hard-won savings as a free money windfall, those higher employer match rates would generate the full benefit intended to help the employee retire comfortably. Employees would not have to work many extra years to make up for the compounded value of the savings they cashed out because it was the easiest thing to do in the moment.

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By ROSALYN IMPINK
News Correspondent

Amherst, Massachusetts is a great place to immerse yourself in history. Whether you're picking up a student from one of the many colleges in the surrounding area or looking for a new day trip, Amherst's self-guided literary-themed walking tour, the Writers Walk, offers a great way to get out and explore the beautiful homes and history that make Amherst unique.

The Writers Walk was developed a few years ago through a partnership between the University of Massachusetts public history program and the Amherst Historical Commission. Funding was provided through the Community Preservation Act, a voter-adopted local property tax surcharge that allows cities and towns to set aside funding for open space, historical preservation, recreation, and affordable housing projects.

A good place to start is the Amherst Visitor Information Center in Amherst Center; from there you can kick off your walking tour in the heart of the city. Nearby Amherst Coffee is popular with students and there are plenty of cuisine options to choose from in the downtown.

Each location is clearly marked with an informational panel; many of the

homes are private residences so be sure to leave no trace.

The trail includes a dozen locations with most clustered around the downtown, highlighting the pivotal places that many of the country's literary greats called home.

The first stop on the tour is Ray Stannard Baker's home; the pioneering investigative journalist lived in Amherst for 30 years and published extensively on American inequality in the progressive era.

Next, make your way to the home of Robert Frost, the iconic American poet who taught at Amherst College and published extensively on the New England landscape.

Nearby is the home of Eugene Field, a poet who wrote "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod," published in 1889, and later resident Mary Heaton Vorse, another reform journalist who captured labor movements during the Industrial Revolution and worked as a war correspondent during World War I.

Jumping ahead to the late 20th century, Norton Juster's home is up the street; the Caldecott-winning author published children's classics including "The Phantom Tollbooth." A skilled architect, he was also a professor at Hampshire College and helped design dozens of buildings across Western Massachu-

setts. Making your way down to Main Street, visit the site of the Noah Webster house. Webster was a founder of Amherst College — his statue is just a quick walk away on campus; a lawyer by trade, he is best known for publishing the first American dictionary, standardizing the country's lexicon in the 19th century.

Amherst offers literary-themed walking tour

Continue down Main Street to find the home of Amherst's famous daughter — Emily Dickinson, one of the most prominent American poets. Dickinson spent much of her life

at this house, known as the Homestead, writing nearly 2,000 poems, many of which weren't published until after her death.

The Homestead is now home to the Emily Dickinson Museum, which also includes The Evergreens property next door, which belonged to Dickinson's brother Austin.

Explore how Dickinson and her family lived in 19th and 20th century Amherst through thousands of artifacts.

Another Amherst woman contributed significantly to Dickinson's success — Mabel Loomis Todd, who

edited Dickinson's work for publication after her death. Todd founded the Amherst Woman's Club and wrote extensively on astronomy.

Her home is located on Spring Street, a few houses down from the home of Howard and Lilian Garis, married authors who pseudonymously wrote for dozens of beloved syndicated children's books.

Heading back towards the center, find the historic Inn on Boltwood, formerly the Amherst Inn. This was the residence of Shirley Graham Du Bois during her time teaching at UMass

Amherst.

She was married to civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois, after whom the UMass library is named — the library is the tallest in the United States and the third tallest in the world.

Graham Du Bois published widely and focused on the biographies of famous Black Americans.

A few blocks south is the home of Helen Hunt Jackson, who documented the lives of indigenous peoples in the American west and analyzed the effects of government policies on the population.

There are two other properties a short car drive away. Head east to visit the Charles Eastman and Elaine Goodale house, both of whom wrote extensively on Native American history and conditions; Eastman, born in modern-day Minnesota, was one of the first indigenous people to receive a medical degree and became active in political issues.

The last location on the trail is Robert Francis' house; the poet was well known for incorporating wordplay into his work and was mentored by Robert Frost.

Walking directions and complete author biographies are available online. Learn more and plan your trip at www.amherstma.gov/writerswalk.



▲ Emily Dickinson's home, now a museum, is one stop on the Amherst Writers Walk, a self-guided literary history tour. (Rosalyn Impink photos)

Upcoming local events

February 3 - March 16, Belle of the Ball dress collection. Donate a dress or in other ways to provide prom dresses to help junior and senior girls feel great about themselves and enjoy their special school celebrations. Visit antons.com/belle for details. Local partners include Antons Cleaners, Jordans Furniture, and Enterprise Bank.

March 8, Dr. Sandy Creamer Johnson Foundation Annual Fundraiser, 1-5 p.m., Tewksbury/Wilmington Elks, 777 South St. Monies raised for scholarships.

March 11 - April 15, Tewksbury Public Library. 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. NAMI Basics (National Alliance on Mental Illness Massachusetts) Free course for parents and family caregivers of children and adolescents with emotional or behavioral issues. Meets weekly on Tuesdays. Contact teachers: Dee at deefebba@comcast.net or Brian at brian.sarr19@gmail.com

March 14, Trivia and Tunes at the Tewksbury Senior Center. Bring your friends or join a group for this fun music trivia from 1 - 3 p.m. Light refreshments served or bring your own. Call the Senior Center with questions at: (978) 640-4480 and to reserve your spot.

March 22, Book Donation Drive 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library. Books will be checked for saleable conditions to be sold on the Friends' Honor Cart. All proceeds are used for library programming

March 24, Eat-In/Take Out for the Friends of the Library at Vic's Waffle House, 283 Old Main St. in Tewksbury. Come eat breakfast for dinner from 4 - 7 p.m! Vic's will be open exclusively for the Friends fund raiser. There will be a 50/50 raffle with proceeds funding the programming at the library.

April 2, Tewksbury Lions

Meat Bingo, T.J. Callahan's Pub, 6 p.m. Includes a lobster raffle. Contact Kathleen Descoteaux for more info 978-996-4338.

April 9, Tewksbury Health Fair, 175 Chandler St. (senior center), 1 - 4 p.m. Vendors, screenings, giveaways. Celebrate Public Health Week!

May 4, Tewksbury Line of March reenactment, 1:30 p.m., Chandler and Main Streets. Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the shot heard 'round the world.

September 13, Wilmington High School Class of 1975 50th reunion, live band, dancing, buffet dinner, cash bar. Pay by April 1 — \$85, April 2 - July 1 — \$90, July 2 through last minute walk-ins — \$95. Register and pay at: <https://my.cheddardup.com/c/high-school-class-reunion-temp-65333/items?cart> Questions? Steve Brander sbrander@gmail.com Reunion Organizers: Steve Brander / Vin Scifo / Helen Ryba

Thursdays, Saturdays, and the first Sunday of the

month, Public Health Museum, 365 East St., Open for indoor and campus tours. Check website for times. Publichealthmuseum.org

Book Store Next Door, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Wilmington

Public Library. All proceeds support library programs. Next to Wilmington Public Library.

Sundays, Lowell Streetcar Museum, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Adults \$3, seniors and youth age 3-12 \$2, children under 3 are free. Cash only. 25 Shattuck St., Lowell.

Wilmington Town Museum, Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Harnden Tavern, 430 Salem St. (Route 62), Wilmington

Middlesex Canal Museum, Saturdays and Sundays, Noon - 4 p.m., 71 Faulkner Street, North Billerica



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~notice concerning local spring elections~

The *Town Crier* won't accept any letters related to the upcoming Wilmington and Tewksbury elections the week of the elections. All letters should be in by Tuesday, March 25 at 5 p.m. for the Tewksbury election and Tuesday, April 15 at 5 p.m. for the Wilmington election.

Thank you.

Governor Healey signs supplemental budget to reduce cost of state's family shelter system

BOSTON — Governor Maura Healey signed a supplemental budget that includes her proposals to reduce the taxpayer cost of the state's Emergency Assistance family shelter system and additional changes to make it safer for shelter residents and communities.

She also released the results of a security assessment she requested from former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis, president and CEO of The Edward Davis Company (EDC), with recommendations to enhance safety at shelter sites. The administration will be retaining EDC to assist with the implementation of the report's recommendations, many of which are already underway.

One of the report's key recommendations is to limit the policy of presumptive eligibility when placing families, and the supplemental budget will enable the administration to do so with its signing.

The supplemental budget proposals build on the administration's work to help families find stable housing and reduce the size of the shelter system in recent months.

Last month, the system saw nearly 700 families exit to stable housing, the highest number seen in over a decade. As a result of this work, the system currently serves approximately 5,800 families, which represents a 22 percent reduction from peak levels seen in 2023 and 2024. More than 75 percent of families now seeking shelter are long-time Massachusetts families. The administration has already reduced the number of hotel shelters by half as they work toward their goal of closing all hotel shelters by the end of the year.

"This supplemental bud-

get includes critical improvements that I proposed to reduce the taxpayer costs of the family shelter system and make it safer for residents and our communities. We all know that urgent action is needed to lower the cost of the system and make sure it is a viable, safe and temporary option for Massachusetts families who have fallen on hard times," said Governor Healey. "We're grateful for the hard work of the Legislature for passing this important bill and to Ed Davis and his team for their review of the security of our system — and we're ready to get to work on implementation."

At \$425 million, the Fiscal Year 2025 supplemental budget provides the necessary funding to support Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter-related services through the remainder of this fiscal year.

The bill also includes important policy changes proposed by Governor Healey in January to ensure a more affordable, safe and sustainable EA program going forward. The administration will begin implementing many of these changes, including:

- Continuing to require disclosure of criminal history and CORI checks on all adult (18+) applicants.

- Ensuring review of identity, residency, lawful status, and familial relationship for all household members prior to placement.

The administration will release regulations and enact the additional policy provisions from the supplemental budget, including an updated 6-month length of stay and changes to the presumptive eligibility process. The administration also already has plans underway to reduce caseload to 4,000, including by closing all hotel shel-

Governor, AG issue joint guidance affirming commitment to equal access to education in state

BOSTON — Governor Maura Healey and Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell issued updated joint guidance to support Massachusetts' higher education and K-12 institutions in their work to further equal access and representation in education in response to recent Executive Orders by President Trump and a U.S. Department of Education "Dear Colleague" letter dated Feb. 14, 2025.

Under the joint guidance, Massachusetts educational institutions should continue their work to foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility among their student bodies.

Longstanding legal precedent has established that educational institutions may take steps to build student bodies that are meaningfully diverse across numerous dimensions, like geography, socioeconomic status, race, and sexual orientation and gender identity, among others.

Governor Healey and AG Campbell want to affirm that the federal government cannot change this longstanding legal precedent by executive order or a Dear Colleague letter. These efforts cannot erase the truth that educational access has not been free from the impact of historical and systemic racism.

"Attorney General Campbell and I are issuing this guidance to send a clear message that Massachusetts is going to stay true to who we are," said Governor Maura Healey. "We believe that bringing people of different backgrounds and perspectives to the table — including women, People of Color and the LGBTQ+ community — is a strength, especially in education.

We are committed to working closely with our incredible schools, colleges and universities to support all of our students."

"I'm proud to partner with the Healey-Driscoll Administration and Secretary Tutwiler and in updating guidance to affirm that Massachusetts schools can continue efforts to ensure diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility," said Attorney General Campbell. "Despite the Trump Administration's continued attempts to create confusion and anxiety, the law has not changed, and schools must continue their work to make sure that every student, regardless of background, can access educational opportunities in the Commonwealth."

"I am grateful for our administration's partnership with Attorney General Campbell and her team. Today's guidelines strengthen our commitment to ensuring that everyone has equal access to our K-12 schools and institutions of higher education," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "In our state, we will continue to collaborate with education leaders to break down barriers to education so that all students can succeed today and into the future."

This joint guidance reaffirms that these recent federal actions do not prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in admissions and access to higher education or other educational settings. It also includes steps that K-12 schools can take to set their students up for success. Schools and higher education institutions should continue to take affirmative steps, within the law, to create and maintain a

positive school climate where all students feel safe, supported, respected and ready to learn. This includes reviewing current practices to ensure they comply with all applicable anti-discrimination, anti-bullying and civil rights laws.

"This country has long fought for all students to have equal access to a public education. The federal government is attempting to take us back decades, exacerbating real inequities that still exist today. Today's joint guidance reaffirms that Massachusetts will continue to acknowledge and address historical and persistent gaps in student access and achievement, including Black and Brown students, students with disabilities, low-income students, LGBTQ+ students and other marginalized student populations. We remain committed to supporting schools and higher education institutions, within the law, to build more equitable education systems for all students," said Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler.

Practices and programming that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility provide important educational and social benefits for students. They foster learning environments that provide all students an equal opportunity to learn and better prepare students to work in our diverse country and participate in our multiracial democracy. They are essential to promoting fair treatment and eliminating stigmatization.

In September 2024, the Attorney General's Office and Governor Healey released joint guidance on affirmative steps school districts can take to create school environ-

ments that are safe and inclusive for all students and prevent hate and bias incidents from occurring. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also recently issued a special advisory on Supporting All Students, Including LGBTQ Students.

"At DESE, our Educational Vision calls for all students to be known and supported and for families to be known, respected, and valued for who they are," said Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. "Our vision also calls for us to develop and sustain an educator workforce — from paraprofessionals to superintendents — that is diverse, culturally responsive, and well-prepared, because we know it will benefit students. We remain committed to this work and to the principle, reflected in our History and Social Science Curriculum Framework, that effective instruction celebrates the progress our country has made in embracing diversity, while at the same time encouraging honest and informed discussions about both racism and resistance in the past and present."

"All students in Massachusetts, regardless of their background or circumstances, should have access to postsecondary education, the support to succeed, and a welcoming campus environment," said Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega. "I'm proud that today's guidance will help continue to support the exceptional work being done on our campuses to improve diversity, equity, access, and inclusion."

ters by the end of 2025.

The EDC report also makes several recommendations for enhancing safety and security at shelter sites, improving shelter staff training and support; enhancing intake and placement procedures; strengthening onsite shelter security measures; reviewing and enhancing EOHLC policies; improving data collection and tracking; and establishing consistent shelter security standards.

Many of these recommendations have already

been addressed by action Governor Healey has taken administratively or through the supplemental budget. For example, Governor Healey directed that all residents 18+ applying for or currently living in EA shelter receive a CORI check, in addition to the sex offender registry checks and warrant checks already being performed on all applicants and residents systemwide.

At the time, CORI checks had not been required by law, but Governor Healey

ordered them to be conducted as an added layer of public safety and security. All adult EA residents

have now been CORI checked or will be terminated from the program if they do not consent.



Paying close attention

Enjoying a recent boys and girls basketball double-header at Wilmington High School are, from left, athletic trainer Tom Nye, athletic director Denis Ingram, and high school principal Ryan Gendron. (Joe Brown photo)



▲ Lauren Francis-Sharma and Book Stew host Eileen MacDougall at the Harvard Book Store, Cambridge. (Courtesy photo)

Book Stew goes out to the book store

In the March Book Stew episode, host Eileen MacDougall joins author Lauren Francis-Sharma at the Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, for a conversation about her acclaimed new novel "Casualties of Truth."

In their conversation, author Mark Cecil draws out Lauren's true-life experiences as a young attorney and observer in South Africa.

This intense story, which ratchets back and forth between Johannesburg and Washington, DC, has received laudatory reviews from the New York Times, Washington Post, People Magazine, and the Boston Globe.

The protagonist, Prudence, relives her late '90s horrific post-apartheid experience at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission when a man from her

past shows up at a dinner party decades later. Their confrontation is based on mutual secrets, and the stability of her family is threatened.

Prudence is trying to prevent the upending of her home life, while keeping her husband in the dark about what she had managed to pack away for many years.

Check out this new Book Stew episode on WCTV on Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturdays at noon. Or click on the links and enjoy!

YouTube

<https://tinyurl.com/bookstew135-yt> (video)

Soundcloud

<https://tinyurl.com/bookstew135-sc> (podcast)

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All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.

Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

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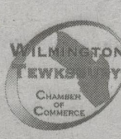
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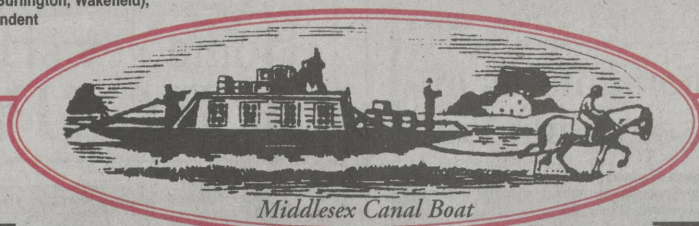
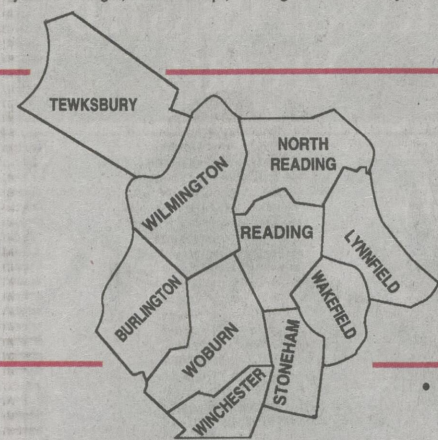
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New dolphin documentary has local connections



SOUNDS OF THE SEA - Members of the Ipswich River Community Chorus attended the world premiere of "Call of the Dolphins" at the New England

Aquarium, which is now playing at the Simons Theater. The North Reading based chorus provided backing vocals for the film. (Rosalyn Impink Photo)

By ROSALYN IMPINK

The world premiere of "Call of the Dolphins," a new documentary with local connections, was held this month at the Simons Theater at the New England Aquarium.

The 3-D film, narrated by Mary Steenburgen, explores the profound connection

between humans and dolphins, taking viewers under the sea with exceptional cinematography and compelling stories.

The film brings audiences around the world to learn about dozens of diverse species of dolphins, but casts a special focus on the local people and institutions in Massachusetts who are working to protect and

understand dolphins, including Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute researcher Dr. Laela Sayigh, who studies speech patterns between dolphins and their babies, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare Marine Mammal Rescue Team, which works to safely treat and transport dolphins stranded on the beaches of Wellfleet, Truro and Provincetown back to the ocean - hundreds of marine animals are beached bayside and need assistance finding their way home to open water.

"Call of the Dolphins brings audiences face-to-face with wild dolphins, offering a fresh and immersive experience with these remarkable animals that have captured human imagination for centuries,"

Jonathan Bird, director and co-producer of the film, said in a recent statement.

"The film also introduces a passionate team of individuals dedicated to understanding and protecting these intelligent creatures. I hope it inspires a renewed sense of wonder and a deeper appreciation for the importance of safeguarding their ocean home."

Bird and his wife Christine are longtime North Reading residents and experienced divers with deep Massachusetts roots, having produced the New England Emmy-award winning PBS Kids show "Jonathan Bird's Blue World," as well as several giant

• DOCUMENTARY TO B-2

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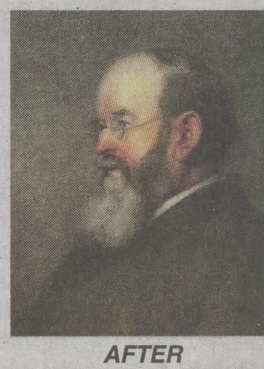
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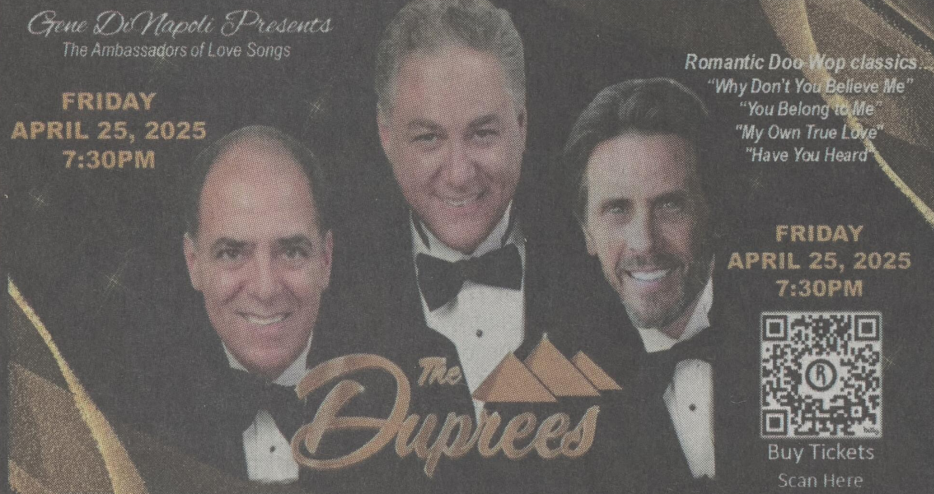


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Gene DeNapoli Presents
The Ambassadors of Love Songs

FRIDAY
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7:30PM



Romantic Doo Wop classics:
"Why Don't You Believe Me"
"You Belong to Me"
"My Own True Love"
"Have You Heard"

FRIDAY
APRIL 25, 2025
7:30PM



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REGENT THEATRE

Gene DeNapoli Presents

America's
Got Talent



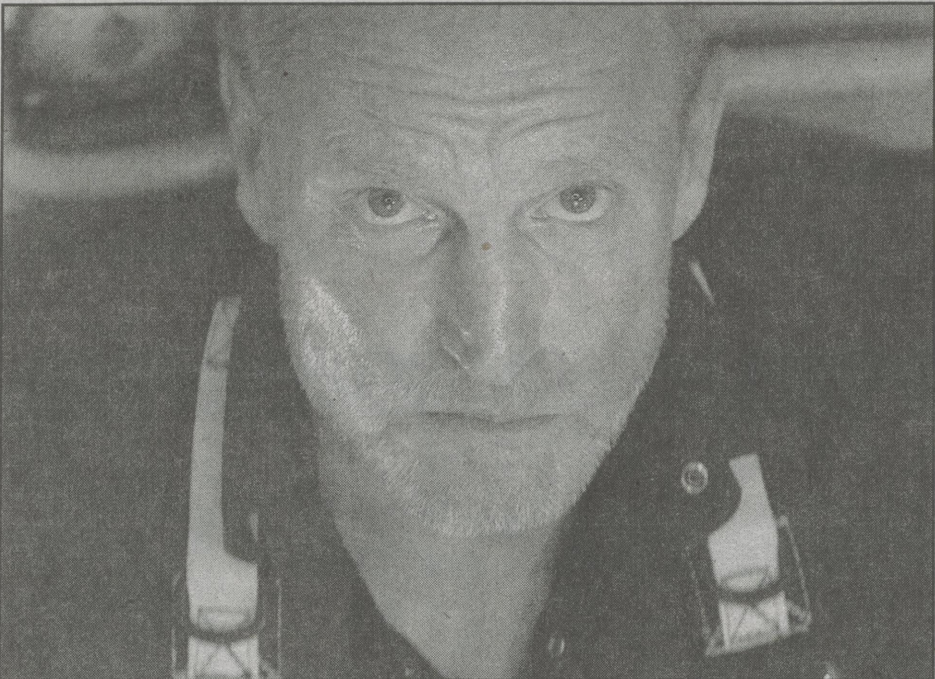
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Sal the Voice
VALENTINETTI

Saturday
April 26, 2025
8:00pm

Movie Reviews & Box Office News

A gripping deep-sea rescue mission unfolds in 'Last Breath' with Woody Harrelson, Simu Liu



REAL LIFE RESCUE - Actor Woody Harrelson in a scene from "Last Breath" released by Focus Features. (Focus Features via AP)

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

A routine deep-sea diving mission in the North Sea goes terribly wrong when a young diver is stranded some 300 feet below the surface in the new film "Last Breath." His umbilical cable has severed. The support vessel above is aimlessly drifting away from the site through violent, stormy waters. And the diver has only ten minutes of oxygen in his backup tank.

As if that wasn't enough, it's also a true story.

If merely reading this is giving you heart palpitations already, you can only imagine the white-knuckle experience of watching this all play out on the big screen. It's 40ish minutes of pure suspense and anxiety as the story shuffles between the man at the bottom of the ocean, Chris Lemons (Finn Cole), his fellow saturation divers (Woody Harrelson as Duncan and Simu Liu as Dave) in the diving bell below the waters who are unable to help and the crew in the support vessel above (including Cliff Curtis and Mark Bonnar) scrambling to get their systems back online and operational as the clock rapidly runs out. Ten minutes has never felt so short — and then it just gets worse as the clock starts counting up, showing Chris's time without oxygen.

At one point, Liu's character Dave, a nonsense, all-business diver says matter-of-factly at that it's a body recovery, not a rescue. Deep-sea saturation diving is a dangerous business, described at the start of the film as the most dangerous job on earth. Chris tells his fiancé, in a short introduction, that it's no more dangerous than going to space. She replies that it's funny that he thinks that is comforting.

The real incident happened in September 2012 — Dave, Duncan and Chris were just one team of divers sent to the ocean floor off the coast of Aberdeen, Scotland, to repair oil pipeline.

The seas were particularly rough that day, with winds up to 35 knots, common for the North Sea but also not what one might call safe. Chris and Dave were in the middle of their work when they heard the urgent calls to abort: The dynamic positioning system in the support vessel above had failed and they were in drift. Chris scrambled to maneuver out of the pipeline corridors, but his umbilical got caught. For a brief, awful moment he's the anchor to the ship above, but soon enough the cord snapped, and he was thrown back to the ocean floor in pitch black with no coms, no heat and very little hope for survival. News articles about the incident clock his backup oxygen supply as being closer to five or six minutes — perhaps the movie wanted to give the audience a little buffer.

If this sounds at all familiar, it may be because it was made into a documentary, also called "Last Breath" and released in 2019. While it was well-received, some true stories are just too gripping to exist solely in that form. It's not exactly a surprise that a narrative film was made as well. There's a good track record of recent complimentary adaptations — think Ron Howard's "13 Lives" and "The Rescue" about the Thai boys soccer team stuck in the cave.

This one was made by Alex Parkinson, the same director who co-directed the doc, and it's a well-executed narrative interpretation that doesn't get in its own way with padding. Harrelson gets to be the wise mentor who really doesn't want to lose someone on his last mission. Liu gets to flex his action muscles (literally and figuratively) in a modest but solid role. And they don't go out of their way to shoehorn in a villain — this is just a group of people trying their best to save a life.

The only real problem, if one can

HomeNewsHere
RECIPE

CRISPY PARMESAN-RANCH ROASTED VEGGIES



EAT YOUR VEGETABLES - The secret to getting everyone to eat their veggies is probably sitting in your pantry. We're talking about that little packet of dry ranch dressing mix, which is the key to these totally addictive roasted veggies—yes, veggies really can be addictive.

STEPS

broccoli is tender.

INGREDIENTS:

1. Heat oven to 425°F. Line 15x10x1-inch pan with foil. Spray foil with cooking spray.

2. In large microwavable bowl, place 3 tablespoons of the butter. Microwave uncovered on High 30 to 60 seconds or until melted. Stir in garlic powder and pepper. Add potatoes and onion wedges; toss to coat. Place mixture in pan. Sprinkle with 2 rounded tablespoons of the ranch dressing mix. Toss to coat, then spread in single layer in pan. Turn potatoes skin-side down. Roast 29 to 33 minutes or until potatoes are very tender when pierced with knife. Remove from oven; stir.

3. In same bowl, place 1 more tablespoon butter; microwave uncovered on High 15 to 30 seconds or until melted. Stir in salt. Add broccoli to mixture; toss to coat. Arrange in single layer in pan next to potato mixture. Roast 11 to 14 minutes longer or until potatoes are browned and

4. Meanwhile, melt remaining 1 tablespoon butter in 8-inch skillet over medium heat. Add bread crumbs; cook 2 to 3 minutes, stirring frequently, until golden brown. Remove from heat; stir in remaining 1 rounded tablespoon ranch dressing mix. Pour into small bowl; stir in Parmesan cheese. Top vegetables with bread crumb mixture and parsley.

EXPERT TIPS

- There's no need to clean the bowl used to toss the potatoes and onions—just set it aside until it's time to toss the broccoli.
- Flip potatoes onto cut side when you stir them so they make contact with the hot pan and brown nicely.
- Dry ranch dressing mix has thickeners in it, so you can't add it to the butter mixture and toss the potatoes in it in the bowl. It has to be sprinkled over and tossed in the pan.

• 5 tablespoons butter

• 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

• 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

• 1-1/2 lb baby red potatoes, quartered

• 1 cup red onion wedges

• 1 package (1 oz) dry ranch salad dressing and seasoning mix

• 1/8 teaspoon salt

• 4 cups small broccoli florets

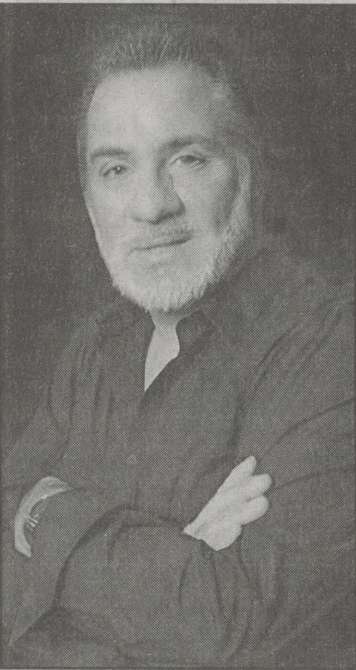
• 1/4 cup Progresso™ plain panko crispy bread crumbs

• 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese (1 oz)

• 2 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian (flat-leaf) parsley leaves

Friday, April 25th (7:30 p.m.) and Saturday, April 26th (8:00 p.m.) in Arlington

Bronx promoter finds great success at historic Regent Theatre



Join us at The Regent Theatre in Arlington, MA, on both Friday, April 25th (7:30 pm) and Saturday, April 26th (8 pm) and experience the romantic tones of The Duprees and the stunning songbook of Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti. The Duprees are from Atlantic City and are well-known as "The Ambassadors of Love" while Sal, from Bethpage, N.Y. is best known for his flawless vocals and Heidi Klum's Golden Buzzer while a finalist on America's Got Talent in 2016! The weekend of stellar performances comes to Arlington's Showplace of Entertainment thanks to the work of Gene DiNapoli.

Gene, hailing from Throggs Neck in The Bronx, first brought "Swinging with The Rat Pack" to the historic Regent Theatre in November of 2024. He nearly sold out his first effort to promote to an "oldies" crowd in the Greater Boston area and now he returns with this blockbuster pair of events. Gene DiNapoli Presents has been a leading promoter of concerts in New York and New Jersey since 2015 and Gene, actually a talented performer himself was named "Outstanding Elvis Performer in New York City" for three consecutive years recently. His website: <https://www.genedinapoli.com/> is the best way to follow the events he promotes in the area.

As for the stars at The Regent upcoming in late April, New Jersey's Ambassadors of Love Songs, The Duprees, have been entertaining audiences for over 60 years with their unique and timeless sounds. They have some of the most memorable romantic doo-wop classics, such as "You Belong to Me," "My Own True Love," "Have You Heard," and "Why Don't You Believe Me"—all Top 40 hits. When the lyrics and melodies of these classics are brought to life by the smooth vocals of Tommy Petillo, Jimmy Spinelli, and Shawn Stevens, it's impossible to resist the emotion and nostalgia that spark memories and the desire to sing along. Their harmonies and romantic sound continue to captivate audiences and promise to deliver a performance that resonates with all generations.

Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti, began performing Sinatra tributes at 15 and quickly rose to fame on Season 11 of AGT. Since then, he has released an EP, two albums, and toured the U.S. with a big band orchestra and collaborator Dave Damiani. Sal's performances of classic Rat Pack covers and jazzy originals have delighted fans of all ages. His album "Little Valentine," released on Valentine's Day in 2021, was recorded at the same Hollywood studio where Frank Sinatra himself laid down tracks.

Don't miss this chance to experience both The Duprees and Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti's captivating performances live at the Regent Theatre in late April! Secure your tickets for unforgettable evenings of music and nostalgia as Gene DiNapoli Presents a weekend of his best entertainment offerings at Arlington's Showplace of Entertainment. The Regent Theatre, "Arlington's Show Place of Entertainment" since 1916 is located on 7 Medford Street in Arlington, Massachusetts—minutes from Cambridge, Boston, and Routes 2 and 95. For tickets and more information visit <https://regenttheatre.com> or call 781-646-4849.

• **Documentary FROM B-1**

screen films, including "Ancient Caves" (winner of the 2020 Best Film of the Year Award from the Giant Screen Cinema Association), "Astronaut: Ocean to Orbit," and "Secrets of the Sea."

The Birds, along with New England cinematographer Tim Geers, are board members of the nonprofit Oceanic Research Group, an organization dedicated to the conservation of the oceans; in addition to creating educational materials, the group sponsors an annual scholarship to support women in diving.

The film has another local angle - backing vocals were provided by the Ipswich River Community Chorus, of which Christine Bird is a member.

"The chorus added a layer of richness to the sound that we haven't had before," said Bird.

"It was a wonderful experience working with the group on this."

The chorus is based out of North Reading with members representing several North Shore and Merrimack Valley towns, including Tewksbury, Wilmington, Reading, North Reading, and Wakefield. Under the direction of Katherine B. Foley, members recorded the vocal score, written by Bruce Zimmerman with accompaniment by the Czech Studio Orchestra of Prague.

"Conducting the music for a film score was an item I didn't know was on my bucket list," Foley said. "It was a really thrilling experience."

Recording took place at the Union Congregational Church in North Reading. Several members attended the world premiere in Boston, including long-time member Laurie Abbott of Tewksbury.

"It was such a joy for the chorus to be able to provide our sound to this film and help bring this story to audiences," she said.

The chorus is holding its 40th anniversary concert on May 18, 2025.

Learn more at www.ipswichrivercommunitychorus.org.

Call of the Dolphins is produced by Oceanic Research Group Films and presented by MacGillivray Freeman Films. The film is family-friendly and has a run time of 40 minutes, playing at the Simons Theater at the New England Aquarium.

For more information, please visit www.callofthedolphinsmovie.com.

• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

6 Julia Connors Dr was sold to Machlin, Emily and Chan, Philip by Romeo, Michael and Romeo, Nancy for \$1,355,000 on 02/10/25

111 Lexington St was sold to Uddin, Belal by Hatcher Velda Est and Osell, James R for \$745,000 on 02/13/25

231 Mill St was sold to Dellano, Erin A and Tompkins, Daniel W by Ike, Kerrie for \$830,000 on 02/11/25

LYNNFIELD

38 Beaver Ave was sold to Muniz, Jennifer and Muniz, Paul by Mattina Jr, Joseph J for \$945,000 on 02/14/25

2 Country Club Dr was sold to Whitehead, Linda and Whitehead, Michael A by Landau, Alissa and Landau, Seth for \$1,300,000 on 02/14/25

45 Essex St was sold to Dinapoli Re Prop Inc by Robinson, Donald N and Frederickson, Sally E for \$750,000 on 02/13/25

140 Forest Hill Ave was sold to Dinapoli Re Prop Inc by Robinson, Donald N and Frederickson, Sally E for \$750,000 on 02/13/25

160 Forest Hill Ave was sold to Dinapoli Re Prop Inc by Robinson, Donald N and Frederickson, Sally E for \$750,000 on 02/13/25

136 Main St was sold to Dano, Ermira and Zarka, Ronaldo by Darragh, Elizabeth L for \$830,000 on 02/11/25

NORTH READING

15 Main St #5 was sold to Thompson, Brianna M by Pietrafitta, Mark for \$315,000 on 02/10/25

READING

1 Charles St #K was sold to Saccoccio, Anthony by Bodebender Nancy Jane Est and Gilligan, Lisa A for \$540,000 on 02/10/25

147 Grove St was sold to Del Vecchio, Dominique C and Francis, Timothy M by Lonergan, Kathleen G and Kowaleski, Christopher M for \$745,000 on 02/13/25

357 Grove St was sold to Rajappa, Venkatesh and Sharma, Shradha by North Shore Res Dev Inc for \$2,253,100 on 02/14/25

33 Johnson Woods Dr #33 was sold to Claude L Grosso RET and Grosso, Claude L by Johnson Woods Realty Cor for \$1,275,000 on 02/13/25

404 South St was sold to Xu, Zhiqing and Sun, Huaming by Jackson, Paul D and Caswell, Nicole J for \$840,000 on 02/13/25

66 Temple St was sold to Berardo, David A and Sitren, Amanda by Bolle, Edward and Bolle, Linda M for \$982,200 on 02/13/25

STONEHAM

34 Warren St #2 was sold to Preziosi, Paul A by Nadworny, Susan K and Nadworny, John W for \$325,000 on 02/10/25

TEWKSBURY

127 Caddy Ct #127 was sold to Coakley, Rosaleen by Anna V Difraia RET and Difraia, Anna V for \$545,000 on 02/13/25

1501 Main St #45 was sold to Chamerland, Stephanie by KAD Homes LLC for \$60,000 on 02/14/25

1501 Main St #36 was sold to Holtzman, Najwa by KAD Homes LLC for \$207,000 on 02/14/25

1501 Main St #51 was sold to Silva, Marcos J by Gagnon, Jennifer and Jacques, Michael for \$70,000 on 02/11/25

2131 Main St #320 was sold to Ali, Ibrar by 2131 Main Street LLC for \$259,500 on 02/12/25

215 Marshall St was sold to Smart, Rachel S and Smart, Conrad L by 215 Marshall Street LLP for \$1,000,000 on 02/14/25

9 Pocahontas Rd was sold to Weaver, Natalie and McCulley, Ashton W by Buonopane, James and Dubois, Christina for \$725,000 on 02/12/25

WAKEFIELD

98 Cedar St #26 was sold to Henriques, David A by Mayo, Kenneth for \$512,000 on 02/11/25

380 Lowell St #202A was sold to Pine Grant LLC by Corson, Derek W for \$75,000 on 02/11/25

WILMINGTON

203 Lowell St #305 was sold to Siahkamari, Ali by 203 Lowell St Owner LLC for \$681,500 on 02/14/25

WINCHESTER

28 Bellevue Ave was sold to Li, Kaixiang and Yan, Qiqi by Scott Custom Homes LLC for \$1,020,000 on 02/14/25

5 Forest Cir was sold to Mds Design And Dev LLC by Mawn Catherine Est and Otoole, Kendra for \$1,100,000 on 02/14/25

666 Main St #L3 was sold to Navarro, Kimberly by Sandra Jean Wellens RET and Wellens, Sansra J for \$660,000 on 02/12/25

48 Water St #48 was sold to Jang, Youngsun and Kim, Wendy by Caitlyn A Lynch RET and Lynch, Caitlin A for \$1,450,000 on 02/10/25

WOBURN

201 Bedford Rd #21 was sold to Harvey, Amanda B by Smith, Gregory M for \$500,000 on 02/13/25

19 Charles St was sold to Kanna, Sr and McMahon, Devin by Morley, Katelyn E and Castro, Alfredo for \$679,900 on 02/12/25

9 Cummings Ave was sold to Capelo, Shawn C by Dwyer Regina P Est and Finn, Deborah J for \$770,000 on 02/14/25

6 Flint Cir was sold to Giangrande, Christopher L and Giangrande, John T by Giangrande, Denise M for \$165,000 on 02/13/25

3 Frank St was sold to 22 Upton Ln LLC by Myers, Angelina and HSBC Bank USA NA Tr for \$410,000 on 02/12/25

2 Inwood Dr #2001 was sold to Lecaroz, Michael E by Griffin, Ryan and Griffin, Kaitlin for \$680,000 on 02/12/25

37-A Kilby St #I was sold to Peppe, Guiliana by Keiko Tanaka RET and Tanaka, Keiko for \$383,000 on 02/13/25

183-A Lexington St was sold to Ea Ft and Ea, Lieng S by Cialdea, Frederick C and Cialdea, Bruce for \$1,650,000 on 02/13/25

10 Merrimac St was sold to Shukla, Ashutosh R and Shukla, Mayuri M by Sullivan, Dennis G for \$859,500 on 02/11/25

218 School St was sold to Bhagat, Priya G and Bhanot, Nitin by Rgk Development Co LLC for \$1,259,000 on 02/12/25

As part of a long-term redesign project at the Tewksbury Public Library

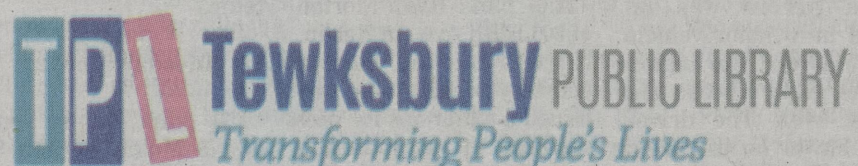
Exciting changes are coming to the Children's Room this spring

The Tewksbury Public Library is pleased to announce exciting changes coming to the Children's Room this spring.

To accommodate the first part of the project, the Children's Room will be closed Sunday March 16th and Monday March 17th to allow for shelving in the play area to be relocated and new carpeting installed. Library staff will have access to the space

and can retrieve items during this time. Toddler Story Time will take place in the first-floor meeting room at 10:15am on March 17th.

Stay tuned for exciting transformations to this community space which is undergoing its first major redesign since debuting over 25 years ago in March of 1999 when TPL at 300 Chandler Street first opened.



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Tewksbury Police Log

Groton woman arrested for larceny, drug possession

Monday, February 24

5:20 a.m. - Caller at Pondview Lane reported someone in hammock in backyard that she could see through camera. Hammock was in woods of backyard. Caller stated she had an active TO on child's father. Police sent. This was not a person and was just snow in the hammock.

8:24 a.m. - Caller stated two homeless people were trespassing after already being told to leave at Market Basket North. Police sent. Dalia Millan-Serrano, 33, of Lowell, was arrested and charged with trespass and assault.

2:33 p.m. - A 911 caller reported her items were missing according to storage staff at iStorage. Caller stated storage staff told them the unit was swept clean and there

wasn't a new lock on the door. Police sent. Its only a civil issue.

4:29 p.m. - Front desk worker reported white male in his 50s wearing a gray hat, flannel jacket and black pants came into the lobby of Motel 6 acting "reckless" and swinging at customers. He pepper sprayed him and the male was now outside in the front lot. Caller denied needing an ambulance. Police sent and officer filed a report.

11:33 p.m. - A 911 caller reported ex was breaking into her house at Pondview Lane. Unknown weapon, nobody else in the house. Male and female believed to be inside home. Police sent. Home was secure and no signs of forced entry. Officer filed a report.

Tuesday, February 25

9:04 a.m. - A 911 caller reported an erratic driver in the area of Whipple Road and Patten Road. Vehicle was driving in the wrong lane. Vehicle was a gray SUV. Police sent. Officer checked the area, but found nothing.

4:28 p.m. - Caller reported Walmart had let a worker go and they were not complying and causing a scene. They were in the back by the bathroom. Police sent. Verbal argument only. Ex employee was gone on arrival.

5:54 p.m. - Manager at Market Basket south would like a panhandler moved along who was currently outside of the main entrance. Police sent and checked the area. Panhandler was gone on arrival.

Wednesday, February 26

1:59 p.m. - Caller report-

ed one of the elderly residents suffering from dementia or Alzheimers was believed to be stealing packages at Main Street. Police sent. They spoke to all parties. It was a misunderstanding.

Thursday, February 27

6:55 p.m. - Police reported large pothole on Whipple Road in between Patten Road and Shawsheen Street. The message was left with the DPW.

11:56 p.m. - A 911 accidental phone call from Eastgate Road. No contact. Police sent. Confirmed accidental.

Friday, February 28

1:31 a.m. - Passerby reported there was a suspicious male, dressed in all black with a flashlight looking into the Scooby Doo van in the parking lot. He arrived in a silver Toyota. Police sent. This was just an avid Scooby Doo fan and was just taking some pictures.

2:40 p.m. - An argument occurred with the clerk at Speedway. Police sent. The argument was over a discrepancy with her lottery ticket.

4:26 p.m. - A 911 caller reported her neighbor was intoxicated and may have tried to break into a home at Redgate Road. Police sent. Her soon to be ex-husband was here and he was intoxicated. He was upset the house was being sold. Male party's wife called in and reported her husband may/may not be armed and might try suicide. Police sent. Male was en route to rehab and officer filed a report.

7:14 p.m. - Caller at Market Basket north reported a male with three kids asking customers for money. Police sent and they spoke to the male party. He would move along.

7:39 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a juvenile male damaged some property inside of her home at Ames Hill Drive. Police sent and officer filed a report.

10:39 p.m. - Loss prevention reported a female shoplifter was there at Walmart. Police sent. Ally Kermann, 30, of 133 Nashua Road in Groton, was arrested and charged with larceny under \$1,200, a warrant for a larceny over \$1,200, and possess class A drugs.

Saturday, March 1

5 p.m. - Caller reported an unauthorized vehicle parked at Tewksbury Transit. Caller reported when she asked the party to leave, he was combative and rude and wouldn't tell her why he was there. Caller reported another vehicle arrived to pick up those parties and they left with both of the vehicles. Caller no longer wished to speak with an officer and would call back if those parties returned.

Sunday, March 2

12:19 a.m. - Security company stated silver Toyota SUV dropped someone off for a vehicle pick up at Atamian Honda. They did not have any pick ups tonight. Police were made aware of the issue and the vehicles had already left prior to dispatch. Police sent. Vehicle were gone on arrival. No signs of any forced entry.

11:43 a.m. - A 911 caller stated a silver Toyota Camry driving erratically and almost hit cars at Whipple Road And Rogers Street. Police sent and checked the area. Call was sent into Lowell.



Wilmington Police Log

Head-on collision on Salem St. leads to one person being taken to Lahey Medical Center

Friday, Feb. 21:

2:38 p.m.: A gray 2021 Honda Accord was involved in a motor vehicle accident on Burlington Avenue, going off road and rolling over. The driver was able to be extracted from the vehicle, but the accident caused damage to a nearby residence, a mailbox, some trees, and some telecom wires.

4:39 p.m.: A caller on Jones Avenue asked for advice on how to retrieve her personal belongings from her ex-husband. She was advised that it was a civil matter and was presented with options for legal recourse.

Saturday, Feb. 22:

11:01 a.m.: A firetruck was involved in a motor vehicle accident with a yellow 2023 Chevy Malibu in the parking lot of the Market Basket on Main Street. The employee who owned the Malibu was notified of the accident.

4:37 p.m.: Loss prevention at the Target on Ballardvale Street reported a past case of larceny.

Sunday, Feb. 23:

7:01 a.m.: Segundo Clemente Bano Bano of 78 Holly St., Apt. #1, in Lawrence, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked registration, and a number plate violation. This followed a stop of his gray

2008 Honda Accord on Industrial Way.

12:01 p.m.: Ryan Morton of 805 Fifth Ave., in Berlin, NH was arrested under a courtesy booking, and was issued a summons for possession of ammunition without an FID card. This followed a caller on Ballardvale Street reporting a man and a woman in a black pickup truck with green plates in a parking lot, believing that the woman was either under the influence or having a medical emergency.

1:58 p.m.: Loss prevention at the Target on Ballardvale Street reported a man who attempted to steal a vacuum cleaner, and fled when loss prevention attempted to detain him. The man drove away in a white 2024 Toyota 4Runner, and police notified Townsend police to stop and identify him.

Monday, Feb. 24:

4:30 p.m.: Lara Pin Frati of 116 Andover St., in Andover, was issued a summons for assault & battery. This followed a walk-in reported a physical altercation with a co-worker at the Unified Construction Group on Main Street.

4:40 p.m.: A black 2011 Dodge Durango and a white 2024 Hyundai Palisade were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Harnden Street. Airbags were deployed.

5:04 p.m.: A caller on Emerson Street reported that his cellar door was

damaged, and it appeared that it may have been the result of a break-in attempt.

Tuesday, Feb. 25:

1:31 p.m.: Eunmi Jeong of 375 Mount Vernon St., Apt. #322, in Dorchester, was issued a summons for shoplifting by asportation. This followed a call from loss prevention at the Target on Ballardvale Street reporting that they had found a repeat shoplifter in the store.

2:13 p.m.: A white 2022

GMC Canyon hit the Firestone on Main Street, cracking the store's window. No injuries were reported, and no airbags were deployed.

6:19 p.m.: An employee at the Starbucks on Lowell Street reported a man refusing to leave the store despite being asked, due to a store policy requiring a purchase to sit inside the restaurant. The man left on foot when police arrived, refusing to identify himself, and the employees confirmed that his refusal to purchase any-

thing or leave was the only issue.

Wednesday, Feb. 26:

6:19 a.m.: A walk-in party reported that she is afraid of an employee that she recently fired.

2:12 p.m.: Andrew Harvey Leighton of 230 Apache Way, in Tewksbury, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operation of an unregistered motor vehicle. This followed a stop of his gray 2005 Chevy Silverado on Main Street.

9:09 p.m.: A white 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee and a gray 2004 Lexus RX330 were involved in a head-on collision on Salem Street. One person was knocked unconscious and trapped inside their vehicle; the patient was ex-

tracted from the vehicle and given CPR. A med-flight was called, and later cancelled, and various nearby police departments were called to assist at the scene, including by blocking off access to the road. The patient was ultimately taken to Lahey Medical Center.

Thursday, Feb. 27:

11:47 a.m.: A caller on Avalon Drive reported fraudulent charges on their debit card.

3:55 p.m.: Roberto Bryan Portillo of 284 Old Main St., in Tewksbury, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. This followed his involvement in a motor vehicle accident between his gray 2020 Ram 1500 and a gray 2016 Mercedes C300W4 on Fordham Road.

Investigation into fatal crash in Wilmington

WILMINGTON — District Attorney Marian Ryan and Wilmington Police Chief Joe Desmond have confirmed the ongoing investigation into a fatal crash that occurred Wednesday night on Route 62 in Wilmington.

The preliminary investigation suggests that at approximately 9:09 p.m., a Lexus RX 330 was traveling westbound and a Jeep Grand Cherokee was traveling eastbound when the Lexus crossed over the line into the opposite lane. The Lexus then struck the Jeep at a high rate of speed head-

on. The operator and sole occupant of the Lexus, identified as Erica Mastropietro, 41, was transported to Lahey Hospital in Burlington where she was later pronounced dead. The operator and sole occupant of the Jeep was also transported to

Lahey Hospital where she remains hospitalized. This crash is being investigated by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, the Wilmington Police Department and the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section of the Massachusetts State Police.

Lazarus House raffle includes two tickets to Masters golf tournament

LAWRENCE — As golf season begins, the Lazarus House Ministries Masters Raffle 2026 promises one lucky winner two tickets to attend the 2026 Masters Golf Tournament, with all proceeds going to support the Guests of Lazarus House Ministries. Attendees will see players such as Morikawa, Scheffler, and Thomas compete for the coveted Green Jacket at Augusta National Golf Club.

This exciting opportunity includes two badges to the 2026 Masters Tournament, VIP access to The Foundry at Rae's

Creek, gourmet menu selections, hand-rolled cigars, and official programs and mementos. The raffle even includes two-night double occupancy hotel accommodations.

Tickets are available at www.lazarushouse.org/masters today. Tickets are limited.

By purchasing a ticket, all entrants directly support the Guests of Lazarus House Ministries and provide food, clothing, shelter, community resources and advocacy services to our neighbors.

Winner will be drawn

June 23, 2025 at the 30th annual Drive for Dignity Golf Tournament, announced via a Facebook Live event on the official Lazarus House Ministries Facebook page.

Our Ministry is dedicated to serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and clothing needs.

We served over 30,000 guests this past year by providing them access to vital services like supplemental groceries, clothing, personal care items, and shelter if need be. Beyond these essential needs, we provide advo-

cacy and connect our Guest to resources that can make a lasting difference.

Above all, we treat everyone with dignity and respect, empowering those we serve to take steps to move forward with hope.

For over 41 years, we have been blessed with loyal donors, partnerships and volunteers like yourselves who enable us to serve everyone who walks through our doors. We cannot do this without you. Thank You.

For more information, please visit <https://lazarushouse.org/>

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Munroe named to Dean's List at Hamilton College

CLINTON, NY — Jamie Munroe, of Tewksbury has been named to the Dean's List at Hamilton College for the fall 2024 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be a member of the Class of 2025, 2026, or 2027 and have carried a course load

of four or more graded credits throughout the semester and earned an average GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.

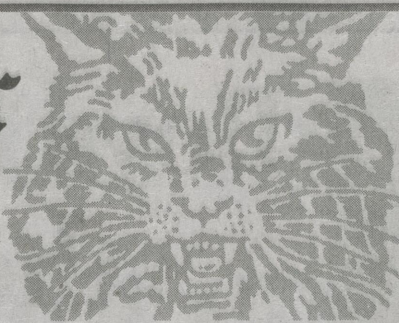
Munroe, a junior majoring in economics and Hispanic studies, is a graduate of Brooks School. Hamilton College, a leading liberal arts insti-

tution located in Clinton, New York, is where exceptional students explore passions through an open curriculum and robust research, internship, and off-campus study opportunities. Students graduate ready to lead purposeful lives thanks to highly regarded facul-

ty mentors, generous resources that support student's interests, and a loyal alumni network.

The College's need-blind admission policy ensures access for talented students with limited financial means.

Learn more at www.hamilton.edu.



▲ The Wilmington/North Reading swim team had a successful season and did well at the postseason meets.

(Courtesy photo)

Falk leads swimmers at postseason meets

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Cole Falk of Wilmington had quite a season for the Wilmington/North Reading swim team.

After a dynamic regular season, Falk advanced to the Div. 2 state champi-

onship meet where he made quite a splash.

Falk, only a freshman, finished fifth in the 200-meter in 1:46.07.

He finished behind four seniors in the race.

Falk also competed in the 100-yard butterfly, taking fourth in 52.76 seconds, again finishing behind

only seniors from other schools.

In the 100-yard backstroke, Wilmington/North Reading was represented by Spencer Bagtaz, who placed 17th in 58.07 seconds.

The team also had an entry in the 400-yard free-style relay.

The foursome of Falk,

Bagtaz, Declan Savage and Sameera Murthy ended up finishing 16th in 3:35.64.

At the North sectional meet, Wilmington/North Reading also had a successful day.

Falk highlighted the day by winning the butterfly in a speedy 52.48 seconds, just ahead of Wayland

senior Peter Morris.

Falk was fifth in the 200 free in 1:46.29.

In the 100 free, Bagtaz competed and was 36th in 52.59 seconds. He was also 18th in the backstroke in 58.93 seconds.

Wilmington/North Reading had teams in all three relay races.

Falk, Bagtaz, Savage and Murthy were 19th in the 400 free relay in 3:40.78.

Murthy, Savage, Jon Mahr and Ivan Deiko finished 22nd in the 200-yard free-style relay in 1:43.6 and the 200-yard medley relay saw Falk, Savage, Bagtaz and Deiko take 23rd in 1:52.72.



◀ Roman Synnott takes a free throw against Lynnfield.

(Doug Hastings photo)

▼ The Wildcats talk strategy during a timeout against Lynnfield.

(Doug Hastings photo)



Successful season for Wildcats ends in first round of playoffs

Wilmington High boys basketball can't catch Lynnfield

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

On a different day, at a different place, maybe this game goes another way.

But in its playoff opener at Lynnfield High last week, the Wilmington High boys basketball team took a big

punch early and never recovered, falling to the Pioneers in the opening round of the Div. 3 state tournament, 61-41.

"This is the first step," said WHS coach Anthony Faradie. "Shots didn't go down early. It's tough when you haven't been here before, this was all of our guys first time in the state

tournament and maybe we were feeling that a little bit. But we fought hard."

Lynnfield scores the first nine points of the night, led 16-6 after one quarter and by 18 at halftime, 32-14.

The Wildcats made their move in the third quarter with a 7-2 run to start the second half and a 9-2 surge to finish it, making it an 11-point game, 43-32, with eight minutes to go.

Lynnfield didn't cooperate with Wilmington's comeback plans in the final eight minutes, outscoring the Wildcats by an 18-9 margin.

The Pioneers scored the first five points of the fourth quarter to take a 16-point lead.

The Wildcats outscored

Lynnfield by an 8-6 margin over the next four minutes, but the deficit was still 14 (54-40) when senior center Ayden Balter fouled out for WHS with time winding down.

Lynnfield hit five of its six foul shots in the closing two minutes to put the game away.

"Give (Lynnfield) credit," Faradie said. "They're a good team and they're big. I think we exceeded people's expectations. Obviously we're disappointed right now, but we reached our first goal which was to make the state tournament."

After Lynnfield's fast start, WHS' slowly chipped away at the lead.

Junior Timothy Watson saw quality minutes in

the first half and capitalized on his chance, playing tough defense.

Wilmington's strong third quarter started with a 3-pointer by Ryan Gray before senior Ayden Balter's excellent passing led to layups by Gray (10 points) and junior Roman Synnott to cut the lead to 36-21.

Down 41-23, the Wildcats finished the quarter with another run as junior Will Poyant and senior Kyle Gabaree hit 3-pointers and Poyant added one more down deep just before the quarter ended.

Balter (12 points) started the fourth quarter by drawing a charge, one of three for WHS throughout the game (Synnott and Gray were the others).

Faradie wasn't surprised to see Balter step up in his final game for WHS.

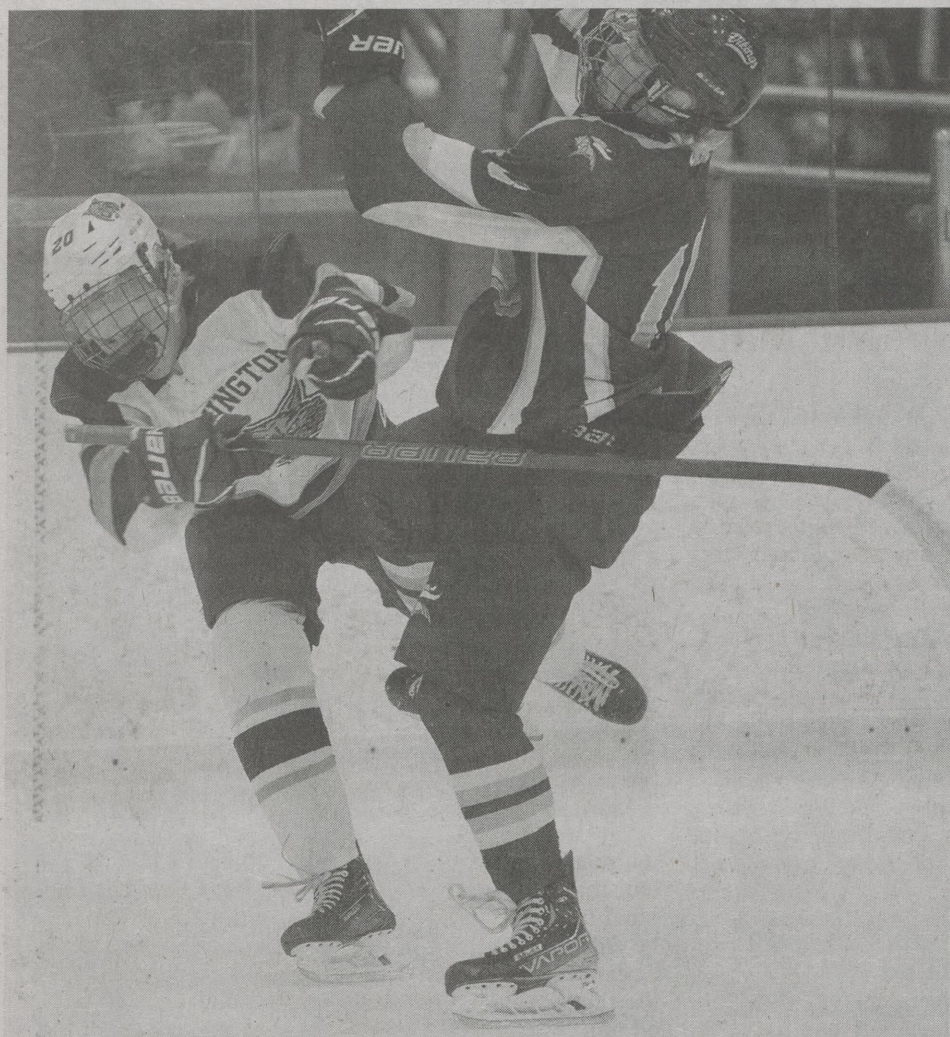
"He had an incredible season," said Faradie. "Ayden is so good, everything he does out there."

He's our inside presence offensively and defensively. He controlled the boards for us all season.

He's a facilitator. He's been incredible. He's a big one to replace."

Faradie and the WHS program will return plenty of experience to the floor next season.

"We started off 0-4," Faradie said. "We tripled our wins from last year. These guys did a great job. To battle back and get to the position we were in, I think it was a successful season."



▲ Wilmington's Ryan Archer, left, collides with South Shore Voc's Colby Young during Thursday's Division 4 boys hockey tournament game. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

▼ Wilmington's Jake Tucker celebrates after scoring a goal during Thursday's Division 4 boys hockey tournament game. Wilmington netted a 4-1 win over South Shore Tech. (Credit Image: James Thomas)



Boys hockey wins, then falls in Div. 4 playoffs

By **DAN ZIMMERMAN**
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Tewksbury — In a matinee game staged last Saturday at the Breakaway Ice Center, the Wilmington High boys hockey team was dealt a season-ending 6-2 defeat by North Reading in the MIAA Division 4 Round of 16.

The Wildcats were unable to rally back after yielding a trio of second-period goals to their neighbor and natural rival.

Wilmington wrapped up the 2024-25 campaign with a 5-17 overall record, 5th of the seven clubs that make up the Middlesex League's Freedom Division.

Despite the obvious struggles this season, the MIAA Power Rankings system was kind to the Wildcats, designating them 8th in a Div. 4

field of 32 teams at the outset of the tournament.

North Reading came in as a slight underdog, with a win-loss mark of 13-8 and ranked 9th.

"We have played a really difficult schedule," said long-time Wilmington coach Steve Scanlon. "In the regular season, we had troubles down the stretch. Over the last four or five games, we couldn't buy a goal but in the first tournament game, we were clicking."

Scanlon was referring to the Division 4 opening round in which Wilmington dispatched No. 25 South Shore Vocational Tech with relative ease, 4-1.

Goal scorers in the win were Brennan Walsh, Issac Tavares, Jake Tucker, and Ryan Archer.

"I thought that game would get us out of the dry spell," added the coach. "But facing North Reading, while we had good opportunities, we were missing the net or their goalie stoned our shooters."

As anticipated, the game was rife with penalties, 14 in all, evenly dispersed between the combatants.

It was obvious from the outset that both clubs had received marching orders from their respective coaching staffs to take the body, and then some.

North Reading struck first, scoring a go-ahead goal midway through the first period.

Skating on a man advantage, the Hornets Tom Gazda beat Wildcat netminder Tyler Marinho glove side, with a backhand off a rebound.

In a hectic middle frame, North Reading widened the gap to 3-0 with a pair of goals, including their

third of the afternoon with 2:04 left. Wilmington would not go to the break empty-handed, however, as Tavares found the back of the net for his second playoff goal, from Tyler Florencio and Colin Allard.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, the Hornets answered 15-seconds later to restore their three-goal lead.

With 10:14 remaining in regulation, Brady Cabral made it interesting, beating Hornet goaltender Steve DeLisle to slice the deficit to 4-2. The goal, assisted by Max Bagtaz and Derek Perault, was soon offset by the Hornets with back-to-back scores, less than a minute apart.

"At 4-2, we were definitely back in the game," said Scanlon, "but then we were chasing them uphill and made a couple of critical errors."

Scanlon was alluding to a third Wildcat goal at that juncture that was negated because the puck was apparently knocked in with a high stick.

"I don't think the score was indicative of the game," added the coach. "We were two evenly-matched teams, each skating up-and-down, and we outshot them 27-21. We had a number of good chances early in the game but in a tournament, that first goal is all-important."

The Wilmington senior departures include Tyler Florencio, David McDonough-Padden, Brennan Walsh, Nick DiGiovanni, Matt O'Brien, Jake Tucker, and Tyler Marinho.

"I'm really proud of my guys," said Scanlon. "We only graduate seven and we should be back next year with plenty of potential."



◀▼ The Wilmington/Stoneham girls hockey team worked hard against Woburn before falling in state tournament action.

(Photos by Joe Brown)



Girls hockey falls in playoffs to Woburn

By **MARK NADEAU**
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

WOBURN — The Stoneham/Wilmington girls' hockey team played above its 30th seeding in the Round of 32 of the MIAA Division. 2 State hockey tournament, but ultimately third-seeded Woburn prevailed, 5-0, last Wednesday night at O'Brien Rink.

The Sparta Cats finish the season with a record of 7-13-1, but with the satisfaction they made the much higher seed work for everything it got.

"We played hard to the end and that's all you can really ask for, never giving up the fight," said Stoneham/Wilmington co-head coach Taylor Bergstrom. "It was a tough way to end it, but we were happy with the way things went. We just wish we could have done a little more."

The Sparta Cats had start-

ed their season at O'Brien Rink with a 5-1 loss to the Tanners. Both teams are better since then with an entire regular season under its belt, but Stoneham/Wilmington did well enough that the outcome was still in doubt until nearly midway through the third period.

"I think there has been a ton of improvement," said Bergstrom. "Even the simple things like moving the puck up the ice communication. I think we've seen a ton of improvements and we're really proud of our players."

The game was scoreless after one period, with Woburn goalie Cadence Pearce making two nice saves to keep Stoneham/Wilmington from taking a lead into the first intermission.

The game stayed 0-0 until 4:13 of second period when Tanner sophomore sniper Savannah Powers scored the first of her three goals

on the night. Senior captain Kate Sullivan collected the puck from sophomore Nora Kennedy at the left point. Instead of taking a shot on net, Sullivan spotted Powers open along the boards outside the left circle.

Powers took a nice wrist shot from inside the circle and beat freshman goalie Emma Allard, short side.

Less than five minutes later, Woburn took a 2-0 lead. On this one, Ella Spinazola made a nice play behind the net to get the puck to freshman Gianna Prisco in front of the net.

Prisco collected the pass and beat Allard with a close-in shot.

"It was good to see us come alive in the second period and pop those two goals," said Woburn coach Steve Kennedy. "Savannah with a great shot, short side, and Ella with a terrific rush and Gianna with a nice drive to the net.

That buoyed us."

Wilmington was unable to get a shot on net in the second period, and that was just as important as scoring the two goals on the offensive end. Sullivan, Juliana Ferragamo, Kelsi Grimes and Jaelyn Gellman were consistent throughout, keeping the Sparta Cats from setting up in the offensive end while also sparking the offense.

Right off the draw to start the third period, Stoneham/Wilmington got its first shot on net since the first period. It was a quality shot that forced goalie Cadence Pearce to make a left pad save, keeping the shutout intact.

The Sparta Cats remained one good shot away from making it a one-goal lead until Powers scored her second goal at 6:12 of the third. Gellman had got the puck ahead in the offensive zone to Spinazola,

who in turn got the puck to Powers. The high-scoring sophomore came out from behind the left side of the Stoneham/Wilmington net and sent a shot into the net, ping-pong off the left post on the way in.

Nora Kennedy made it 4-0 with less than five minutes to play in regulation. Emerson Lilley fed the puck ahead to Kennedy, who sped past the defense for a breakaway. Kennedy came right in on Allard and slid the puck inside the right post.

Less than a minute later, Powers completed her hat trick. Sullivan and Kennedy had created another situation where Allard was left out of position amid a scramble in front of the net. The puck was loose in the left side of the crease when Powers slipped it inside the near post for the 5-0 final.

"I thought in the third period we came out more

composed, our puck possession was clean," said Kennedy. "Our defense was tight and I was really proud how they played those final 15 minutes."

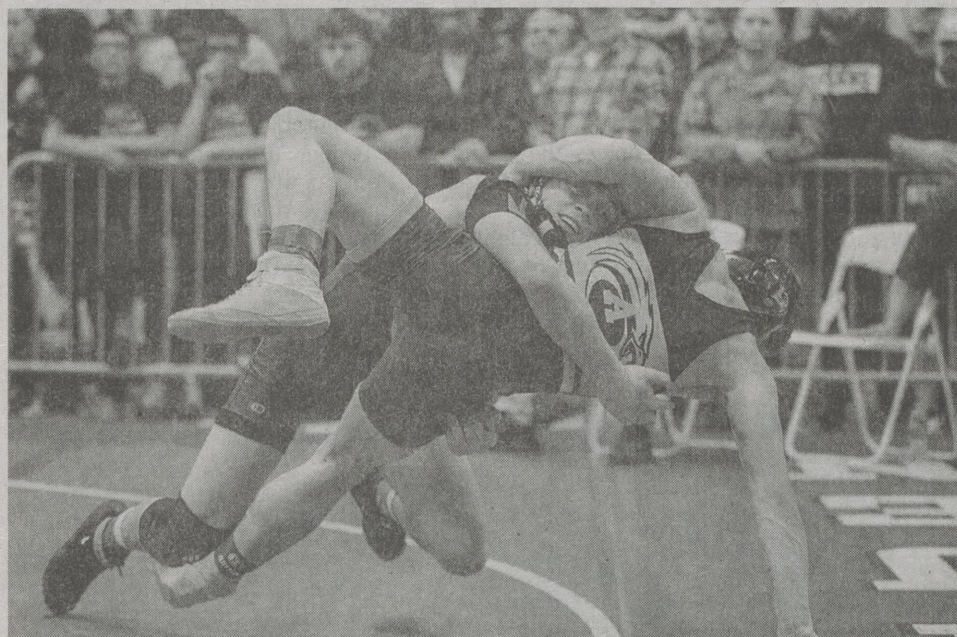
No doubt the star of the game for the Sparta Cats was Allard, who stopped 36 of 41 Woburn shot attempts, and kept her team's hopes alive as long as she could.

"She crushed it, she absolutely crushed it," said Bergstrom, of her promising young goalie. "We lost it a little bit at the end, but it's got to go through a bunch of people before it goes through her, so I would say she did absolutely incredible."

Stoneham/Wilmington will lose captain Isabella Shirlcliff to graduation this spring, but she is the lone senior on the roster. There will be seven seniors capable of returning for next season, leaving a bright future for the Sparta Cats.

Ram wrestlers win all-state team crown

Tildsley Brothers are champions in historic day on the mats



▲ Shawsheen Tech's Sid Tildsley, rear, takes down Jason Ballou of Andover during Saturday's All State wrestling finals in Methuen. Tildsley won the 138-pound clash to claim his fourth consecutive All-State title. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@dailytimesinc.com

Shawsheen Tech crowned two champions and had six scorers in all on the way to winning the all-state wrestling team championship on Saturday.

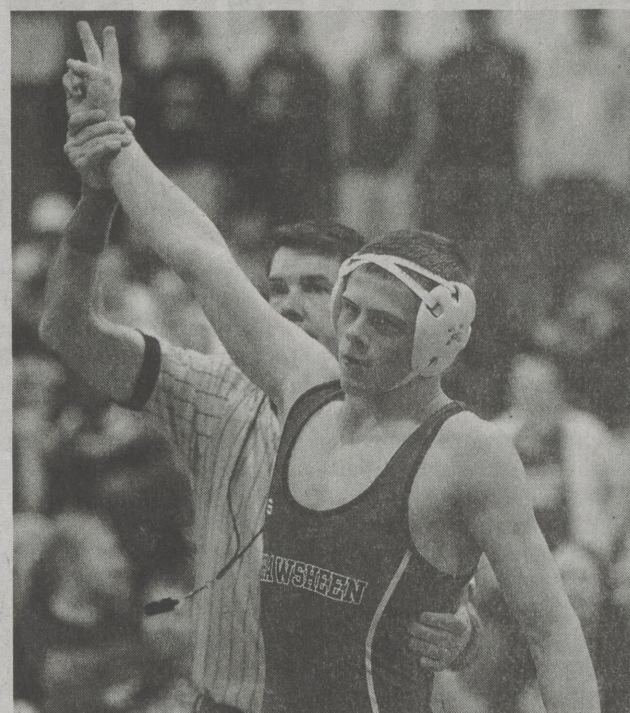
The 132.5 team points were just enough to top Central Catholic, who was second with 130.5 points.

Senior Sidney Tildsley won the championship at 138 pounds, capping off one of the best careers in Massachusetts state history.

Tildsley pinned all four of his opponents including Andover's Jason Ballou in the championship match.

James Tildsley was Shawsheen's other champion at

▼ James Tildsley has his hand raised in victory after winning his 150-pound match to claim his second All-State Title. (Credit Image: James Thomas)



150 pounds where he won four matches, two by technical fall and the last two by fall. James beat Troy Greaney of Leominster in the finals with a first-period pin.

Three Rams finished fifth. Logan Holmes was fifth at 165 pounds, Brayton Car-

bone did the same at 120 pounds and Brayton Carbone took fifth at 126.

Jayden Perez ended up sixth at 106 pounds.

Nate Malandain also competed at 190 pounds for the Rams and Tristan Lane represented Shawsheen at 144.

Shawsheen Hockey Update:

Boys fall in second round to Melrose

Girls win opener, then suffer close loss

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@dailytimesinc.com

A fine season came to an end for the Shawsheen Tech boys hockey team on Friday.

In a season that saw the Rams capture the Commonwealth Athletic Conference championship and the state vocational crown, Shawsheen beat East Longmeadow in its first playoff game before falling to Melrose on Friday in the

Round of 16.

"This team was special," said Ram coach Chuck Baker. "A mixture of every class and they came together as a team. Counting all games, including the endowment game with Billerica, we ended up 17-5-2 after a huge, talented graduating class last season. We were able to capture another league title and back-to-back State Voke Championships. I wish we got through the Round of 16 but we were

hit with a back to back game situation, unheard of in MIAA tournament play, and played our hearts out. We played great against Melrose but couldn't put the puck in the net. I am proud of this team. They are a great group of student athletes on and off the ice."

Melrose scored goals in each of the first two periods to take a 2-0 lead before the Rams answered in the third, scoring just 1:27 into the period when junior Charlie Shannon beat Melrose goalie Matthew Fuccione.

Senior goalie Aidan Fortunato made a big stop on Hawk freshman Ray Willis and Shawsheen's defense killed off two third-period power plays behind a group that was led by senior Zack Timmons, senior Dylan Higson, junior Jake Banda and senior Larry Cullity. Junior Justin Thibert, junior Brayden Johnson, junior Eric Banda and Shannon also chipped in.

The Rams had their chances to tie the game, the best chance a partial breakaway by freshman Josh Baker with six minutes to go.

Melrose scored an empty net goal in the closing second to make it 3-1.

The game started even as both teams had good chances.

Baker nearly finished a feed from Shannon and senior Jason Spaniol had a good bid. Senior Dylan Higson had a shot saved during a power play for the Rams.

With three minutes to go in the period, Melrose took a 1-0 lead.

Willis converted a pass from Declan McLean.

In the second period, Melrose got a break when



▲ Dylan Higson scored his 100th career point in state tournament action last week. (Doug Hastings photo)

senior Justin Dantona came out of the penalty box and found himself with an open breakaway that he put past Fortunato.

Senior Brendan Doyle and junior Aiden Ryan had assists.

After the goal, the teams combined for three quick penalties, two against the Hawks and one on Shawsheen. The head official made a horrendous misconduct call during the period.

The Rams started the playoffs with a 6-2 win against East Longmeadow. Shawsheen led 2-0 after the first period.

Freshman Dylan Minasi-

an scored the first goal, assisted by junior Jacoby Patterson and Shannon.

Senior Ben Gibbons made it 2-0 with a goal assisted by Timmons and Shannon.

Shawsheen blew the game open in the second stanza.

Baker, Jake Banda and Patterson had goals for the Rams. Baker and Patterson had two assists each in the period and Thibert also added an assist.

In the third period, Higson scored for Shawsheen, chalking up his 100th career point.

Fortunato earned another victory between the pipes for Shawsheen.

Senior Darion Considine

helped lead the Ram defense.

GIRLS WIN, THEN FALL

The Shawsheen Tech/Bedford High girls hockey team enjoyed a thrilling upset victory before falling in its second game of the playoffs, ending a terrific season for the co-op squad.

Seeded 20th overall with a 16-3 mark during the season, the Rams knocked off 13th-seeded Natick in their first game by a 2-1 score.

In the next playoff game, Shawsheen lost 2-0 to fourth-seeded North Andover.



▲ Zack Timmons and the Rams lost to Melrose in the second round of the state tournament. (Doug Hastings photo)

Shawsheen boys basketball drops playoff heartbreaker

By STEPHEN TOBEY
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

This winter the Shawsheen Tech boys basketball team won a share of the Commonwealth Athletic Conference title and the state vocational championship.

The Rams' quest for an MIAA Division 3 state title, however, came to an early end when they lost to Norton, 59-57 in the round of 32 on Friday in the Mark Donovan Gymnasium.

Shawsheen, the fourth seed, finished the season at 18-3.

Norton, the 36th seed, ad-

vanced at 15-7.

At the end of a back-and-forth final quarter Norton's Shawn Clary made a 3-pointer in the final 30 seconds, putting the Lancers up 58-57.

With 2.6 seconds left, Ethan Rodriguez made one of two free throws, giving Norton a two-point lead. Shawsheen had one more chance to tie or win, but a 3-pointer from just in front of the mid-court line went off the rim.

"They were the hungrier team," said Shawsheen coach Joe Gore. "It's never an easy thing. All season long we've had good success battling through these gritty, hard-to-

score games. The guys played hard but sometimes it just doesn't go your way."

Shawsheen led by eight, 31-23, at the half. When the third quarter began the Rams built their lead up to 12 when Lukas Poirier (13 points) and Franck Moron (12 points) scored on back-to-back trips down the court.

In the final six minutes of the quarter, however, the Lancers outscored Shawsheen, 12-1, cutting the Rams' lead to 38-37.

At the beginning of the third quarter, Shawsheen made three straight defensive stops before Rodriguez made a free throw

to tie the score with 7:27 remaining in regulation time.

Franck Moron put Shawsheen back in the lead with a shot from under the basket with 7:07 remaining.

The score was tied four times before Norton took the lead for the first time since early in the second quarter on a 3-pointer from Clary with 4:10 left, making it 47-45. The score was tied three more times and each team held the lead three times before Clary put the Lancers in the lead for good.

With 1:22 left, Matt Breen (14 points) tied the score at 55 for the Rams

after he made a pair of free throws. Franck Moron put Shawsheen in the lead with 25 seconds left, making a shot under the basket.

Shawsheen led 13-10 after the first quarter. With four 3-pointers, three from Poirier and one from Jevon Moron, the Rams climbed out to a 31-21 lead with 1:54 left in the half. Clary made a shot inside the arc before the end of the half.

Dyllon Pratt scored eight for Shawsheen. Clary scored 16 for Norton. Quinn Murphy and Javani Melendez scored 15 each.

Playing their final game

for Shawsheen were Breen, Nate Jean-Francois, John Gibbons, Ryan Kelley, Franck Moron and Poirier.

"It's always a great year when you're co-champs in a very competitive league and state vocational champs," Gore said. "I know these guys had higher goals. It'll be disappointing. It will be a tough one to get over. I'd like to give a shoutout to the seniors. They brought this program to a new level. It didn't end the way they wanted, but they left their mark."

March is National Ladder Safety Month Lifestyle

By **HEATHER BURNS**
News Correspondent

Although the first few days of March have seemed to come in like a lion, the first full week of March has given us hope for a more lamb-like weather pattern for the month ahead.

With warmer weather on the horizon, soon many will head outdoors prepping and repairing their homes for spring after a long winter.

Before you decide to clean those gutters, patch that roof or paint the garage, take the time to re-introduce yourself to proper ladder use during National Ladder Safety Month.

According to the CDC, there are more than 500,000 ladder-related injuries and approximately 300 deaths annually in the U.S. due to improper use of ladders.

These statistics come with a high price tag, as the estimated annual cost of ladder injuries in the U.S. is \$24 billion. This includes the cost of workloss, medical, legal, liability, and pain and suffering expenses.

In observance of National Ladder Safety Month, the CDC and OSHA have several common sense safety guidelines that everyone should review before you consider climbing a ladder this spring.

Before starting any project that requires the use of a ladder, always inspect ladders before use, including reading instructional and warning labels that are on the ladder.

If you discover any damage to the ladder, do not use it until it can be repaired.

If you can not repair damaged ladders immediately, tag the damage area to remind yourself, and others, that it is broken and should not be used.

Also inspect for any slippery materials that may accidentally be on the rungs, steps or feet of the ladder.

While inspecting your ladder, be aware of the maximum load

markers. Be sure to keep in consideration the weight of any tools or equipment that you will be using while on the ladder.

When starting a ladder set up, make sure your ladder is set on a stable, level surface before you begin to climb.

Never place ladders on top of boxes, barrels or other unstable items in order to obtain additional height.

The proper angle for setting up a straight or extension ladder is

to place the base a quarter of the working length of the ladder from the wall. Make sure to engage all locks on extension ladders when in use.

Never use self supporting ladders, such as step ladders as a single ladder against a wall in the closed position.

When climbing ladders, always maintain a 3-point contact with the ladder.

The 3-point contact is two hands and one foot, or two feet and one

hand. Remember to keep your body near the middle of the step, and always face the ladder when climbing.

Be aware to never use the top step of a self supporting ladder to stand on unless the ladder is specifically marked for that purpose.

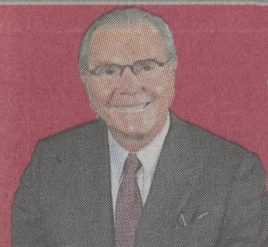
For extension or straight ladders, do not stand on the top three rungs, and always extend the ladder at least three feet above the point of support.

If your project requires you to work near overhead power lines, use extra caution. Always avoid using metal ladders near power lines or exposed energized electrical equipment to avoid electric shocks.

As you prepare your to-do list for the upcoming spring clean-up season, keep in mind that ladder injuries are almost always preventable.

Proper usage and careful attention are key components to practice during National Ladder Safety Month.

Your extra time and caution will ensure a safe and productive outcome for your spring ladder usage.



Herb Chambers



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\$16,492

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16283A, Blue, 69K miles
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16117A, Red, 69K miles
\$14,999

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K3777A, 4WD, Black, 76K mi.
\$15,437

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15789A, Touring, Blue, 63K mi.
\$15,499

2017 Nissan Rogue SL

16266A, Blue, AWD, 87K miles
\$16,499

2019 Jeep Grand Cherokee

16128A, Auto., Velvet Red, 91K
\$17,998

2019 Toyota Rav 4 LE AWD

16046A, Red, 84K miles
\$21,203

2022 Honda HR-V Sport

16178A, AWD, Blue, 25K miles
\$23,210

2019 Honda Odyssey EX-L

16001A, Silver, 80K miles
\$23,421

2021 Toyota Rav 4

15986A, Gray, 30K miles
\$26,998

2022 Chevy Traverse RS

16155A, White, 41K miles
\$34,449

2021 Chevy Silverado 1500

16008A, Gray, 36K miles
\$35,699

2022 Toyota Highlander XLE

15967A, Gold, 38K miles
\$35,832

2016 Mazda CX-5

Grand Touring
63K miles
#16247A
\$16,867

2016 Honda CR-V EX-L

AWD
68K miles
#16222A
\$19,453

2021 Lexus UX 250H AWD

Atomic Silver
62K miles
#15735A
\$24,999

2020 Ford Explorer ST 4WD

Black
40K miles
#15976A
\$34,580

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Gray
108K miles
#16010A
\$16,999

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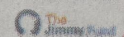
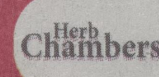
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OBITUARIES

Diane L. (Gillen) Bauman

Funeral services to be private

Diane L. (Gillen) Bauman, age 89, a long-time resident of Wilmington, passed away peacefully at home on March 3, 2025.

Diane was born in Boston on April 15, 1935; she was the dear daughter of the late Clarence Gillen and the late Greta (Scribner) O'Gara.

Diane was the beloved wife of 63 years to John Bauman, devoted mother of Kelly Silveira and her husband Frank and the late Kim Bauman all of Wilmington. Loving "Na-

na" of Frankie and Sophia Silveira.

At the family's request all services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Diane's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 320 Nevada St., Suite 201, Newton, MA 02460 or online at alz.org

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Nichols Funeral Home, Wilmington. To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit our website at



www.nicholsfuneralhome.

Leon G. Chalifour

Enlisted in US Navy with his brother

Leon G. Chalifour, age 92, of Wilmington, passed away on Feb. 25, 2025, at home surrounded by love and family.

Leon was born in Salem on Aug. 4, 1932. He was the eldest son of the late Leon and Regina (Charest) Chalifour. Leon was raised and educated in Danvers.

As a teen, he worked on a farm with his brother, Paul, with whom he would later enter the United States Navy in 1952. They both were assigned to the destroyer USS Abbot and were veterans of the Korean War.

In 1954, they circumnavigated the globe aboard the Abbot, making ports of call around the world.

After being discharged in 1956, he used the G.I. Bill to further his education, attending Coyne Electrical & Technical School. He was also a longtime member of the Tin Can Sailors Association, a fraternal organization of United States Navy destroyer veterans.

In later years, he would often be an honorary crewman of the USS Cassin Young (a sister ship to the USS Abbot) during her annual turnaround cruise in Boston Harbor.

Leon married the love of his life, Marilyn (McPhee) on May 12, 1962, and the same year, the couple settled in Wilmington where they raised their four children. Leon loved family above everything. He was a doting husband, a loving, fun and interactive father, a wonderful friend and neighbor, and loved keeping up strong bonds with his five siblings.

He worked for DRC (Dynamics Research Corp) for 34 years as a machinist, at one point working on a critical piece of the Apollo Space Program's inertial guidance system. One can genuinely say that the astronauts went to the moon and back in part because of Leon's contributions.

Leon was an artist in many ways — fine art with painting, drawing, pen & ink, carving, as well as playing the guitar and piano.

Leon had a green thumb and grew an amazing vegetable garden — carrying that green thumb to work where he also grew tomatoes outside the parking lot. Alongside Marilyn, he created beautiful flower beds and a yard that became an arboretum.

He was a builder also — building the shed, the carport, the screened-in porch and the family room addition. He enjoyed working on his different saws and lathes creating beautiful carvings and contraptions that would fix a myriad of problems around the house as well as games for kids and adults alike.

At work, during his free time and lunches, he would

create metal works of art and intricate puzzles. He also enjoyed traveling with "my Marilyn" as he often referred to her, for day trips along the coast and through the back roads of New England.

They enjoyed visiting Marcelle and Donald in Altadena, San Diego or Palm Springs. In 1988, they did a "trip of a lifetime" across the country — seeing landmarks and discovering the history of the places they visited.

In later years, they loved their time together in their Wells, ME cottage.

Leon was an award-winning artist — he used every medium for painting and drawing (oil, acrylics, charcoal, pastels, pen and ink, watercolor, drawing, sculpting, carving). He also loved music and played guitar and piano, continuing with the piano after the stroke.

He could hear a song once and teach himself — using just one hand.

Leon loved life. That sums up his spirit and fight. He suffered a massive stroke in 2002, one that doctors said he miraculously survived — and he not only survived but despite hemiplegia and aphasia, he thrived.

He worked hard to gain back some mobility, some words, and many of the creative endeavors he enjoyed before — drawing and painting, playing the piano.

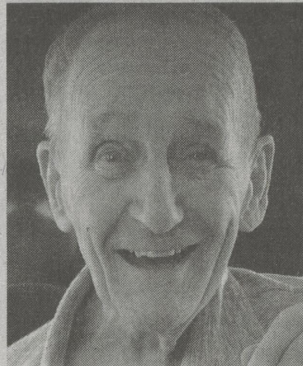
He never felt sorry for himself, never got angry, he went on being grateful for the people and the things he still had. Leon had a smile and an energy that was infectious and lit up every room and every interaction he had. He was truly a rare human, and everyone loved him.

Music was always a big part of Leon's life, too: he played guitar and piano with his brother, Paul, and played the harmonica in earlier years. He loved country and folk music mostly. He would watch Ken Burns' Country Music series, two George Jones specials, and the Bob Dylan 30th Anniversary Concert Celebration.

He discovered the family group: the Petersons and became a huge fan. He also loved Andrea Bocelli and Tim Janis.

In the early morning, he would rise to the soundtrack of Oklahoma, listen to Andrea Bocelli duets in the shower and during his coffee break and time outside in his yard, he would listen to John Denver, James Taylor, Carly Simon, Don McLean, Gordon Lightfoot, Anne Murray, Lauren Daigle, and the Carpenters.

Leon was also an animal and nature lover. He raised geese and ducks, rabbits, loved the family cats and dogs, and could sit out in his yard making friends with the large variety of birds, chip-



munks, squirrels, groundhogs, turkey and deer. Any animal that was timid of others, would gather round him without fear.

He had that energy that attracted people and animals alike.

Leon was the beloved husband of and now joins his cherished wife, the late Marilyn J. (McPhee); he was the devoted father of Paul Chalifour and wife Deborah of Wilmington, William Chalifour of Westford, Dianne Chalifour of Portsmouth, NH, and the late Margaret Chalifour.

He was the cherished son of the late Leon and Regina (Charest) Chalifour. He was the dear brother of Fern and Richard Collins of Danvers, Marcelle and Donald Crunkleton of Altadena, CA, and George Chalifour of Rochester, NH.

He was the brother-in-law of Karen (McPhee) McNaughton.

He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

He has now also joined his late brother Paul A., late sister Annette (Weldon) and late brother-in-law, James Weldon, late sister-in-law, Diane Chalifour and special nephew the late Joseph H. Chalifour, and the late brother-in-law Robert McNaughton, as well as his beloved in-laws Angus and Mary (DeMatteo) McPhee, and Guido and Edna DeMatteo.

He is also reuniting with his close friends, Robert and Elizabeth Landrigan, Carol (Sawin) Fraser, Will McDonald, and John Lomas.

Family and friends will gather at St. Theresa Church, 466 Boston Road (Rte. 3A) Billerica for a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 12 p.m. in the afternoon. Interment with Military Honors to follow at Wildwood Cemetery in Wilmington.

Visiting hours will be held at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Avenue Wilmington on Friday March 7, 2025, from 4 until 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Leon's memory may be made to Rosie's Place or Lowell Humane Society, or any charity of your choice.

To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit our website at www.nicholsfuneralhome.com

René Angela (Ferrara) Lake-Gagliardi

Deeply devoted to music

René Angela (Ferrara) Lake-Gagliardi passed away peacefully at her home on Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, surrounded by her loving family: daughter, Angelina (Lake) Sutherland; son, Anthony Lake; and devoted husband, Peter Gagliardi.

Her Celebration of Life will be held in Athol on June 6. For more information, please reach out to her family.

Her life reflected the values instilled in her by her parents: a deep appreciation for faith, family (la famiglia), friendships, hard work, building and maintaining strength, honoring commitments, and helping others, whether friends or strangers in need. She cherished a lifelong love of music and dancing.

René grew up in a home filled with music and dance. Her father had a passion for singing and was actively involved in barbershop music. Her parents met at a ballroom dancing hall where both were dance instructors. Whenever there was music, René was sure to be dancing.

René began piano lessons at the age of six and continued playing until the end of 2023 when she was physically unable to continue playing. As a youngster, she played for elementary school activities, accompanied singers in junior high school, and taught herself how to play guitar.

In high school, she was active in chorus, jazz band, concert band, and marching band. When the marching band needed someone to play the glockenspiel, they handed her the instrument, and she played it. When the jazz band needed a bass player, she became a bass player.

Other instruments she played included: mandolin, violin, melodica, electric bass, flute, and native flute. René loved her music.

Due to a childhood infection, René lost hearing in her right ear and retained only 30 percent hearing in her other ear. Despite this challenge, she dedicated herself even more to her piano lessons and singing.

Few people realized René was reading lips, and few in the music world knew that she strategically positioned herself to harmonize with other singers and musicians.

In school, she often struggled to hear what others could hear. Teachers might speak softly or unknowingly turn their backs to her, making lip-reading impossible. With few resources available to assist students with hearing impairments, René didn't let this obstacle slow her down. She actively worked to find solutions.

René never looked for the easy way. She had a set of values that she followed, regardless of the hard work required. Life's bumps in the road became her opportunity to overcome and become stronger and wiser.

René loved exercise and running. Her father was a body builder who worked out most of his life. He taught his children how to be strong. To make use of her physical training at home, René wanted to join the cross-country team.

However, Wilmington High School didn't have a girls' cross-country team. Coach Frank Kelly offered her the opportunity to become the first female member of the team. She happily took the opportunity.

René participated in cross country and spring track for all four years of high school. Subsequently, other girls began to join her on the teams. René competed with the women's intramural track team. She excelled.

As a sophomore, she placed in all eight events that she entered. One of her favorite events was the triple jump, which she won with a remarkable 36-foot effort.

Following her high school graduation, René traveled across the country, stopping at most of the national parks and many other historic places. It was a three-month trip, undertaken at minimum cost through planning, camping, and careful spending.

When it was time for college, she enrolled at what is now the University of Massachusetts Lowell, choosing to major in music with a focus on the

piano. She believed that her parents shouldn't bear the burden of her college expenses.

To make this possible, she took on a caregiving role for a student with significant physical challenges. Living in the dormitory with the student, she assisted with many daily needs. In exchange for her services, René received free room and board.

During her college years, René was introduced to the Town of Royalston by her friends. They frequently visited a local camp owned by the family of one of her friends. These visits led to René's love with the land, the forest, the falls, and the charm of the small town.

After college, René purchased her first house in Lawrence, providing both housing for her family and an apartment to generate extra income. Later, she bought and refurbished a second house, creating additional rental units.

René, however, never forgot her love for rural settings and her interest in homesteading. She sold her properties in Lawrence to purchase a 93-acre property just outside Royalston's South Village. René's life and focus remained centered on Royalston. Living on a dirt road, she and her children lived in a modest camp without electricity and running water for 12 years. Fortuitously, electricity ultimately came to the area.

At the cottage, she grew vegetables, raised chickens and other animals including horses, a pony, and goats. She also had dogs. She bred Rottweilers and earned a reputation as a true "dog whisperer."

René had a clear vision for her property as she planned for her house. But, circumstances shifted and René found herself alone with two small children and without a job. Regardless, she remained committed to her original plan: to build a beautiful new home on the property for her family.

She had a remarkable ability to find work and to make every dollar count, transforming a little into a lot. René cherished her home and land.

It didn't take long for René to become a part of Royalston life. Her neighbors were mostly from Royalston, her children attended Royalston schools, and she engaged in many activities in the town. Over the years, she organized a 4H Club, created a Teen Center, served on the Royalston Cultural Council, provided organ music at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in South Royalston, participated in a group of homeschooleders, and participated in Open Mic.

René also created the Royalston Egg Hunt, held in the spring each year. She organized the egg hunt for 20 years.

As her children grew older, she went back to school. She earned a Master's Degree in Counseling from Fitchburg State College. As a therapist, she served families and individuals in the immediate area and helped many people to improve their lives, following in her father's footsteps.

Later, she studied hypnosis and was accredited by the National Guild of Hypnotists.

René was deeply devoted to music. For 20 years, she served as the Music Director at St. John's Episcopal Church in Athol. When Spin Ainsworth retired, she also assumed a similar role at Starrett Memorial Methodist Church.

Occasionally, she was invited to provide music for other local churches, including Our Lady Immaculate, St. Francis, and St. Mary's.

René took great pleasure in bringing out the best in church choirs, helping members gain confidence while tackling more challenging pieces of music.

René had many interests. She was a longtime member of Templeton's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and also belonged to the Mohawk Amateur Radio Club, the Pequig Bowmen Club, and the Royalston Fish and Game Club.

René found true love with her husband, Peter Gagliardi. They were married on Aug. 12, 2008. Together, they created many beautiful me-



mories, traveling and spending quality time with friends and family. They complemented each other perfectly, working harmoniously to achieve their goals.

Their journey was filled with love, laughter, and a shared passion for exploration, community service, and enriching the lives of those around them. During the last year of René's life, Peter put his own life on pause to care for her completely, ensuring they spent as much time together as possible.

Thanks to his unwavering commitment, she was able to stay in the place she cherished most — her home, surrounded by nature, her animals, and her loved ones.

Despite facing severe physical challenges in her final year, René chose to overcome by surrendering to YHWH. As her physical body declined, her spiritual growth flourished. She placed her complete trust in His plan for her life and found peace in every circumstance.

René endured with grace, her smile unwavering, as she discovered a peace that transcends understanding and exemplified what it means to belong to Him. She deeply appreciated all the love and support from her family and friends during her last year. When her physical limitations prevented her from going out, her many friends came to her.

At the end of her life, she truly lacked nothing and left nothing undone. In her high school yearbook, she wrote that her goal in life was to live each day to the fullest, to smile because it made the world a better place, to pursue her passion for music, to cherish her love for dogs, and to have horses and a farm surrounded by family. She accomplished these dreams and so much more.

René's life was a testament to gratitude, living fully, and continually overcoming challenges. As she leaves us, she imparts a legacy of resilience and unshakable faith. May we find comfort in knowing she now rests peacefully in our Father's loving presence, nurtured and cared for as she awaits her final rebirth (John 5:28-29).

In addition to her husband, Peter, and her children, Angelina and Anthony, she leaves Angelina's husband, Todd Sutherland; Anthony's partner, Jeanette Beaudette; grandchildren, Justin Vincent Desmarais and Vincent Noah Lake; her brother, Vincent James Ferrara and his wife, Dianna (Loubier) Ferrara.

She was predeceased by her son, Vincent Howard Lake, and her parents, Anthony James Ferrara and Evelyn Louise (Meuse) Ferrara.

René also leaves her stepdaughters Ann Gagliardi and her husband Ivan Castellucci, and their children June and Oscar; Jane Gagliardi, her husband Carmelo Gullotto, and their children Giovanni and Marco; and Susan Elizabeth Gagliardi and her husband Chris Higa.

We honor her life and cherish her legacy, knowing this isn't the end for her; it's only the beginning.

Witty's Funeral Home, 158 South Main Street, Orange, is assisting the family.

Gerald T 'Jerry' Pupa

Past president with Sons & Daughters of Italy

Gerald T. Pupa, fondly known as "Jerry" to his family and friends, passed away peacefully at home on March 2, 2025, with his devoted wife by his side.

Jerry was born in Newton on Nov. 11, 1941, and was the dear son of the late Andrew D. Pupa and the late Elisabeth (Nordbloom) Pupa Borghetti.

Jerry along with his siblings started their early years in Newton until tragedy struck, and their father Andrew was killed in action in Germany during WWII.

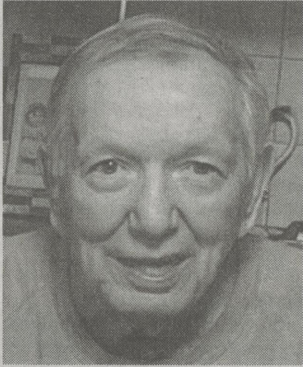
Elisabeth then moved the family to Wilmington when he was about five years old. Jerry ended up residing in Wilmington until his passing. He attended Wilmington Pub-

lic Schools and graduated from Wilmington High School with the Class of 1959.

Jerry met his "sweetheart" Virginia "Ginny" Peck on a double date where the couple hit it off. The happy couple were able to celebrate 61 years of marriage after getting married in August of 1963. They made their home in Wilmington and raised four wonderful children.

He was a very devoted husband, dad and grandfather. Jerry and Ginny looked forward to their family vacations whether it was to York Beach, ME, Salisbury Beach, or with friends to Ogunquit, ME.

Jerry's world became even brighter when his first grandchild, Kayla, arrived. He would



take her everywhere (including Aruba)! Soon he had a total of 10 grandchildren to light up his life.

"Papa" was very proud of his new "title" and role. As they all started to grow, he would attend many, many (different) sporting events,

dance recitals, award ceremonies and even college graduations. He was very proud of the family he and Ginny created.

Jerry worked hard throughout his life; and prior to retirement, worked as an Electro Plater for the AVCO/

ALL INCLUSIVE OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Large second-floor office space in the heart of Wilmington with easy access to The Commuter Rail and minutes from all major highways. This space would be ideal for a lawyer or a tax professional.



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LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
BOARD OF APPEALS

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Room 9 on Wednesday, March 12th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. on the following applications:

CASE #3-25
95 MINK RUN ROAD
MAP 11 PARCEL 61C

APPLICANT: NIRAV PATEL

REQUEST: VARIANCE FOR A FAMILY ROOM 20X22, SECTION 5.3.1 NO STRUCTURE SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THE SETBACK. THE ADDITION WILL BE 14.74 FEET FROM LOT LINE IN A R 20 ZONE

250152 2/27, 3/6/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium at 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA on the Zoning Articles proposed for inclusion on the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held May 3, 2025. The Public Hearing will be conducted jointly with the Finance Committee.

The following summarizes the Zoning Articles that will be considered at the Public Hearing:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw and associated Zoning Map of the Town of Wilmington by creating a new Section 6.12 for the MBTA Communities Multi-family Overlay District (MOD) with four Sub-districts (Main Street Mixed Use Sub-district, Burlington Avenue Sub-district, Deming Way Sub-district, and West Street Sub-district), or take any other action related thereto.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw by deleting Section 6.11 Inclusionary Housing in its entirety, and replacing it with a new Section 6.11 Inclusionary Housing, or to take any other action related thereto.

The Zoning Articles and maps may be inspected by contacting the Department of Planning & Conservation at 978-658-8238 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Articles may also be found on the Town website. Wilmington Planning Board

Terence Boland, Chair
Wilmington Planning Board
250186 2/27, 3/6/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Division
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. MI25P0817EA

Estate of:
Robert Arthur Howe
Also Known As:
Robert A. Howe
Date of Death:
November 2, 2024

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Susan Sargent of Billerica MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Susan Sargent of Billerica MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

250221 3/6/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium at 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA on the Zoning Articles proposed for inclusion on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to be held May 3, 2025. The Public Hearing will be conducted jointly with the Finance Committee.

The following summarizes the Zoning Articles that will be considered at the Public Hearing:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-law by deleting the current Flood Plain District Section 6.2 in its entirety and replacing it with a new section 6.2; or to take any other action related thereto.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-law by deleting the current Accessory Apartments Section 4.2 in its entirety and replacing it with a new section 4.2; or to take any other action related thereto.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Wilmington Zoning Bylaw to prohibit short term rentals in all zoning districts or take any other action related thereto.

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw and associated Zoning Map of the Town of Wilmington by voting to rezone from Residence 20 (R20) to General Business (GB) the parcel of land shown on Assessor's Map 42, Parcel 53, or to take any other action related thereto.

The Zoning Articles and maps may be inspected by contacting the Department of Planning & Conservation at 978-658-8238 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Articles may also be found on the Town website. Terence Boland, Chair
Wilmington Planning Board
250185 2/27, 3/6/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate
and Family Court
10-U Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801
(781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI25P0925EA

Estate of: **Brian S. Bailey**
Also known as:
Jon Brian Stuart Bailey
Date of Death: 04/19/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Malinda V. Bailey of Lititz PA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Malinda V. Bailey of Lititz PA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/25/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 25, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate
250228 3/6/25

LEGAL NOTICES ARCHIVE

All published legal notices are posted to the Massachusetts Public Notices website.

To search the archive of previously published legal notices go to:

www.homenewshere.com

OR

masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following community is advised that the Town of Wilmington proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the Town of Wilmington, as submitted by: **Jamie M. Magaldi, PE, MCA, Public Works Director, Wilmington DPW.**

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public ZOOM hearing will be held at the following location:

Topic: **Wilmington VMP Public Hearing**
Time: **Apr 18, 2025 11:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89494107973?pwd=uYaoEIEzRep6vFwszHfZaFmAf6SCv4.1>

Meeting ID: 894 9410 7973
Passcode: 603335

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Dial by your location
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Meeting ID: 894 9410 7973
Passcode: 603335

Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdH0kGBek>

Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Jamie M. Magaldi, PE, MCA
Public Works Director
Wilmington Department of Public Works
121 Glen Road
Wilmington, MA 01887

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rights-of-way-vegetation-management-vmps-yops-and-notices>. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Wilmington Public Library, 175 Middlesex Ave., Wilmington, MA 01887

Written Comments Requested

The public hearing listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Town of Wilmington VMP until the close of business (5p.m.) April 21, 2025.

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor
Southborough, MA 01772

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200

DIVORCE/SEPARATE
SUPPORT SUMMONS

Docket No. W024D2336DR

Karen Mackenzie vs.
Wayne Balch

To the above named Defendant:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
Maura Coyle, Esq
Wright Family Law Group
1445 Main St
Tewksbury, MA 01876

a copy of your answer to the complaint for Divorce which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, the Court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file your answer to the complaint in the office of the Register of this Court at the above named court either before service upon plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney or within a reasonable time thereafter.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 5, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

AN AUTOMATIC RESTRAINING
ORDER HAS BEEN ENTERED

AGAINST THE ABOVE NAMED
PARTIES WHO ARE
PROHIBITED FROM:

1. Selling, transferring, encumbering, concealing, assigning, removing or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, belonging to or acquired by, either party, except: (a) as required for reasonable expenses of living; (b) in the ordinary and usual course of business; (c) in the ordinary and usual course of investing; (d) for payment of reasonable attorney's fees and costs in connection with the action; (e) by written agreement of both parties; or (f) by Order of the Court.
2. Incurring any further debts that would burden the credit of the other party, including but not limited to further borrowing against any credit line secured by the marital residence or unreasonably using credit cards or cash advances against credit or bank cards.
3. Changing the beneficiary of any life insurance policy, pension or retirement plan, or pension or retirement investment account, except with the written consent of the other party or by Order of the Court.
4. Causing the other party or the minor child(ren) to be removed from coverage under an existing insurance policy, or permitting such coverage to lapse, including medical, dental, life, automobile, and disability insurance. The parties shall maintain all insurance coverage in full force and effect.

This order is in effect until the earliest of the following: (1) the order is modified or dissolved by the court; (2) the order is modified by a written agreement of the parties with court approval; (3) the entry of a judgment of divorce or separate support; (4) the action is dismissed; or (5) by further order of the court. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER MAY BE DEEMED A CONTEMPT OF COURT.

250199 3/6/25

Honing their craft

Wilmington High School photography students work on their craft at a recent varsity basketball game at the high school.

(Joe Brown photo)



OBITUARY

PUPA FROM PAGE A5

Textron Company in Wilmington for many years.

Jerry was always on the go helping others and very vested in his community. In the early years, Jerry was a member of the Wilmington Knights of Columbus and a former vice president of Wilmington Pop Warner but was most proud of his extremely active membership and longevity with the Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli Lodge #2183, Sons and Daughters of Italy in Wilmington.

He was a Past President (several times) of the Lodge and a long serving board member. Jerry had many friends throughout the organization and helped with many fundraisers, charitable events, or any cause to help the community.

He loved helping the SOI especially with their fundraising dinners during the "Fun on the Fourth" whether it be the Chinese food dinner night or selling ice cream in the booth. Jerry always gave his time and talents to help the community and make it a better and safer place to raise a family.

Another favorite past time Jerry loved to do was travel to Aruba, enjoying the great weather and relaxing on the beach. Later he and Ginny looked forward to heading south with a large group of their SOI friends to Lauderdale by the Sea, Florida always having a great time.

LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 2025
6:00 P.M.
Tewksbury Town Hall

The Tewksbury Community Preservation Committee will conduct a public informal hearing to discuss the needs and possibilities of the Town regarding community preservation possibilities and resources.

The Committee will be available to discuss its application and evaluation criteria for funding projects with Community Preservation Funds.

John Deputat, Chair
250227 3/6,13/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

REQUEST FOR
DETERMINATION OF
APPLICABILITY (RDA)

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **March 19, 2025, at 6:30 P.M., located at Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street**, for a RDA application filed by Jennifer Letourneau for installation of new storm water conveyance and replacement of existing culverts within an area that exhibits wetland characteristics.

The property subject to this application is located at Marston Street and Chapman Road TEWKSBURY, MA, ASSESSOR'S MAP 18, Lot 92.

The application may be examined on the Conservation Commission webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Daniel Ronan
Chair
250218 3/6/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MIDDLESEX DIVISION

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. MI25P0947EA

Estate of: **Joseph J Butler**
Also Known As:
Joseph John Butler
Date of Death:
12/15/2024

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Laurel Somerville of Tewksbury MA**

Laurel Somerville of Tewksbury MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve Without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

250195 3/6/25

Assistant Superintendent of Admin. and Finance to retire

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

History Month quilt in Advisory which was hung up around the school building. They also recently held an 8th grade Valentine's Day dance. Eighth graders would choose their high school courses on March 5.

Goldstein shared that Drama Club finished performances of Descendants wherein two of their three shows sold out. Strings and Band students were preparing for their performances in May. Art Club students created two sets of Valentine's Day crafts. She also mentioned upcoming parent-teacher conferences on March 6 and a student leadership conference at Essex Tech on March 21.

Nicholas Golden thanked the middle school representatives for their involvement and said he was really excited about No Place for Hate.

The committee's non-discrimination and harassment policy was presented for first reading. Chair Jesse Fennelly detailed that counsel recommended removal of the words "pregnancy-related conditions," and this was the only change.

David Ragsdale added that they were reverting to Title IX regulations.

The superintendent's report pertained to the Wildwood Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) project and the retirement of the director of administration and finance. Dr. Glenn Brand provided that a flurry of activity continued with the MSBA project.

They had most recently selected a construction manager at risk, or CMR, for designing and constructing the building. The Wildwood School

Building Committee selected the Fontaine Brothers for the group out of four finalist firms. He also reminded the community that the project had three professional groups involved.

They were planning their next community forum on Monday, March 31. He restated the WSBC's commitment to ensuring opportunity for community members to learn about the project.

Dr. Mike Mercaldi asked if the WSBC had thought about a replacement chair, and Brand replied that they would, once he spoke with the town manager.

Mercaldi also suggested that the special Town Meeting scheduled for Sept. 16 could limit voter turnout as it was a Saturday. Brand said that he'd written a letter to ask sports groups to hold off on events that day.

Brand lastly shared that the Assistant Superintendent of Administration and Finance Paul Ruggiero announced his retirement after 17 years. He said it had been his pleasure to work with Ruggiero and see his contribution and consistency.

While he said that the district intended to move swiftly to find his replacement using a thorough search process, Ruggiero wouldn't be leaving until mid-November.

Ruggiero simply stated that he'd always tried to do what seemed best for the town from his seat and thanked the committee for their support.

Fennelly said that the committee had been fortunate to work with Ruggiero. He thanked him for everything he had done for the district.

Stephen Turner said that Ruggiero's impact

expanded outside the schools, as he'd even participated in the town manager search committee.

Ragsdale said he was extremely grateful for Ruggiero's service and leeway in terms of the end of his work.

Mercaldi pointed out Ruggiero's major accomplishment of Wilmington having no budget shortfalls. He also said he would potentially be interested in serving on the search committee depending on the time commitment required. Golden said the same thing, although he preferred to see Mercaldi participate.

Brand suggested that the search committee sessions take place over two days.

Jay Samaha said that Ruggiero's work showed flexibility, and patience.

Dr. Jenn Bryson said that trust and transparency would take time to build with a new director of administration and finance.

Fennelly mentioned in subcommittee reports that the Policy Subcommittee had upcoming meetings.

Mercaldi said that the State Legislation Liaison Committee were trying to schedule a meeting with Senator Barry Finegold in March.

Ragsdale described the most recent meeting of the Cell Phone Policy Working Group where they created surveys to be sent to the district to staff, students and families.

Mercaldi asked if there had been any movement in this regard at the state level. Ragsdale replied that there did seem to be activity but it was mostly from the attorney general's office, particularly a published toolkit.

City receives grant money

GRANT FROM PAGE 1

finished.

The only major stipulation attached to the grant is a clawback clause that would require the city to partially reimburse Mass Development should the city ever decide to sell any of the seven parcels of land it owns along the New Boston Street corridor.

However, Concannon, stressing he has no present day intentions of disposing of that property, also assured the City Council that at most, Woburn would be on the hook for returning \$15,000 of the \$115,000 award.

"We'll use this money to hire a technical consultant to assist us in conducting a New Boston Street opportunity analysis. It will be kind of a mini master plan for the northeast section of the community," the mayor explained.

"Essentially, because the city owns several small parcels of land in that study area, we'd have to agree that if we sell any of those parcels, we'd reimburse the state for a proportional sale of that land," the city's chief executive elaborated further. "If for some reason, we sold every bit of land we own in this area, we'd have to reimburse the state for about \$15,000."

Municipal officials in Woburn and Wilmington spent decades lobbying state officials to restore the New Boston Street bridge connection by Anderson Regional Transportation Center (RTC) that was lost after the old structure was destroyed in a 1972 fire.

Since the bridge was first lost nearly a half-century ago, the industrial park on the Wilmington side of the New Boston Street corridor

has become a major employment center.

In fact, according to a Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) study commissioned back in 2017, the isolated North Woburn corridor is now home to some 370 businesses that employ more than 5,000 people. The same year that MAPC study began, retired City Engineer Jay Corey estimated that roughly 17,000 vehicles head to and from the industrial park on a daily basis.

Presently, those seeking to travel to the Wilmington side of New Boston Street from I-93 must take a circuitous route by meandering down Mishawum Road, Industrial Way, and Ryan Road in East Woburn, before then traversing other residential neighborhoods in North Woburn like School and Merrimac Streets.

By re-establishing a direct traffic route between Anderson RTC and sections of North Woburn and Wilmington, city and state officials insist thousands of commuters will be pulled away from residential neighborhoods by facilitating easier access to I-93 by Commerce and Presidential Ways.

The connection is also expected to alleviate congestion by providing motorists with a more direct route to I-95.

Those changes should in turn should foster economic activity, particularly in Woburn, where the Commerce Way corridor is being eyed as ripe for development given the sheer volume of untouched commercial land in the area — which is also attractively close to a major highway and the MBTA commuter

rail station.

In fact, already, two developers have received permission to construct hundreds of new apartments right at the New Boston Street bridge gateway by Anderson RTC. During his state-of-the-city address last month, Concannon also revealed that MBTA officials are potentially interested in constructing a mixed-use apartment complex on underutilized parcels of land by Anderson RTC.

According to the MAPC's 2018 planning study, though most buildings around New Boston Street are single story warehouses and manufacturing buildings, high-tech and bioscience corporations, struggling to find room to expand within urban areas like Cambridge and Boston, may end up considering Woburn as an attractive alternative to those traditional development hubs.

Suggesting the city could further cultivate the area's redevelopment potential by adding public transportation stops and pedestrian friendly walking routes into the industrial park, the MAPC several years ago also recommended Woburn consider relaxing parking and other zoning requirements within the district.

"The city should continue to explore the feasibility of additional transportation options to access this important employment center via a pedestrian sky bridge and possible alternative transportation modes such as private shuttles... or rerouted MBTA buses," the MAPC consultants wrote in their 14-page report.

Three Wilmington students named to Dean's List at Holy Cross

WORCESTER — More than 1,700 students were named to the College of the Holy Cross' Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. The following local students made the list:

WILMINGTON

- Rhiannon Dymont, class of 2026
- Madison Guy, class of 2025

2025

- Julia Kane, class of 2027

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross:

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institu-

tions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Committee hesitant to spend up for search for interim superintendent

SEARCH FROM PAGE 1

launch a full search. He also asked whether the other committee members felt confident in themselves and in NESDEC to get enough benefits from the consulting relationship that the cost is worth it.

Turner asked for more details on the proposed search committee. Bryson described that this would be a screening committee

to review the applicants, co-chaired by one committee member with possibly one other member joining, along with 6-8 other stakeholders.

Golden shared a desire to begin the process with NESDEC.

Mercaldi agreed with a committee member co-chairing, as well. He also suggested that the fee for the services buys down the risk with the interim

superintendent search.

The committee then voted to appoint Bryson as the chair of the Screening Committee and Turner as the other member on the committee.

They also voted to enter into a contract with NESDEC for consulting services related to the interim superintendent search pending successful negotiations, not to exceed the amount of \$6,000.

Classifieds

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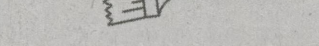
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Wilmington first responders host Ted Johnson of Pats

Wilmington's first responders recently hosted former New England Patriots linebacker Ted Johnson to discuss mental health. On X Johnson wrote, "Thank you to the Wilmington First Responders for hosting me on Tuesday, I appreciated the warm hospitality. I enjoyed sharing my 'Playbook to Championship Wellness' and loved the fun discussion afterwards!" (Courtesy photo)

Board reviews staff survey results prior to vote

CALENDAR FROM PAGE 1

on the day before Thanksgiving. Under 30 percent preferred not to have school that day at all.

They also asked staff about their winter break preference for school days on Monday, Dec. 21 and Tuesday, Dec. 22. The results said that 73 percent of staff preferred not to have school on the 22nd and 23rd. This would essentially provide two full weeks off at winter break.

Only 25 percent of staff said in the survey that they would be inclined for Good Friday to be a holiday, and the other almost 75 percent preferred not to take it off.

Stephen Turner asked if the district could find substitutes if 25 percent of

staff truly took the day off on Good Friday, which he estimated to be between 80 and 100 teachers. Brand replied that this was a good question, and providing that many substitutes would likely be difficult.

He said that he hasn't seen the district operate with 25 percent of teachers on holiday before. He also mentioned that among the staff responses, they didn't know how many came from teachers versus other types of staff.

Dr. Mike Mercaldi asked how the committee could vote considering the four versions. Chair Jesse Fennelly proposed that they try to narrow down the options, unless one emerged as a clear favorite, and then go from there. He pointed out that three

of them featured the two-week-long winter break.

Mercaldi then invited the opinions of the other members.

David Ragsdale shared his preference for the first option, with school on Dec. 21 and 22.

"I think that the entire two weeks off [of school on winter break] is just too much," he said.

He saw this pushing the school year too far into June and placing a heavy burden on parents to find childcare during the break.

Jay Samaha stated that the third version seemed to fit with the survey results. However, despite the survey consensus of 75 percent not needing Good Friday, he agreed that even 25 percent of staff

out of work would be too many, so they should keep that a holiday.

He also preferred early release the day before Thanksgiving, but he had no opinion on the extra two December days.

Fennelly described that the community survey put out by the Wilmington Apple said that the community actually preferred to hold school on Dec. 22 and 23 while a clear majority of staff preferred Dec. 22 and 23 off, according to the district's survey.

Turner suggested that they remove the fourth calendar option, and he preferred either the first or the third version.

Dr. Jenn Bryson said that while it was hard to vote not to remove April 3 as a holiday seeing the

staff survey results, she preferred the third version.

Fennelly added that he preferred the first version where school would end earlier in June. However, he agreed that he struggled not going with the clear preference of staff for holidays by choosing the third version which had the longer winter break.

Nicholas Golden commented that he wanted to see the two weeks of winter break personally, but he saw the overwhelming response in the Wilmington Apple survey against it. He said he leaned toward version one, as he saw it having wins for both teachers and parents.

Ragsdale pointed out that the committee had

only asked for the preference of staff without measuring the strength of the preference. He said that there was nothing in any of the proposed calendars that would have people up in arms if it were approved.

Bryson suggested keeping the half day before Thanksgiving. Turner replied that he wasn't in favor of half days.

The motion to approve version three as the recommended school year 2025-2026 calendar carried with four votes in favor and three votes against. The calendar still needs to undergo a second reading at their next meeting for a final vote of approval.



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